お兄ちゃんだけど
愛さえあれば
関係ないよね？
ねっ♥
鈴木大輔
閏月戈

お兄ちゃんだけど愛さえあれば関係ないよねっ

Dalsake Suzuki
鈴木大輔
Illustration
閏月戈

「そんなことありません！
愛の偉大さの前には人種も性別も国境も関係ないんです！
わたしとお兄ちゃんが双子の兄妹同士であることも
些細な問題です！」
姫小路秋子
Akiko Himenokouji
秋人の妹。ブラコン。
「此細じゃねえよ。
むしろ一番問題あるところだよ」
「……ウチの妹があんなこと言ってるけど。
那須原さんはどう思う？」
「答えるまでもない質問をわたくしに振らないで頂戴。
さもなくば今すぐここで下着を脱いで大声を上げるわよ」
「いや意味わからんし……」
那須原
アナスタシア
Anastasia Hosuhara
表情と言動が
読めない人。

「……じゃあ次は、二階堂さんにも意見を聞きたいんですが」
「つーかさ、お前さんはあたしの愛人になることが決定してるわけだから。姫小路秋子が今さら所有権を主張したって手遅れってもんだよなあ、がっかっか」
「うんまあ。あなたに意見を求めた僕が馬鹿でした」
二階堂嵐
Arashi Hidendo
性欲が強い。(プレイボーイ)
あだ名は「搾乳者」。
「……まあいちおう君の意見も聞こうか、銀兵衛」
「むしろ僕はね秋人。ひとつ屋根の下で暮らすことになった妹くんに、君がうっかり劣情を催しやしないか、と心配でならないんだけど」
「僕、そこまで信用ないかな……？」
姫小路秋人
Akito Himekoji
秋子の兄
猿渡銀兵衛春臣
Saruwatari Ginbe Haruomi
秋人の親友。

「そんなこんなで姫小路。
お前さんとお前さんの兄貴との間に
恋愛関係が成立する可能性はまったくのゼロ、
という結論になったぜ」
「血の繋がった兄相手に本気で恋をするとか、
良識と倫理にケンカを売ってるとしか思えないわね」
「ま、諦めが肝心だよ秋子」
「ひ、ひどい！
みんなして寄ってたかって！」

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お兄ちゃんだけど愛さえあれば関係ないよねっ

鈴木大輔

MF文庫J

[Onii-Ai v1] Chapter 1: 25th March (The first day of living together)

I'll say it first. This is a <story of the lives of a brother and sister who were somehow separated from each other for sometime and for some reason were reunited again and began living together under the same roof, living their lives normally without any major incidents - much like the gentle flow of water, with no bumps or impacts>.

It probably won't be very interesting.

But of course, that is to be expected.

I feel that this is just the way how everyday life should be, for an older-brother and his younger-sister.

Well, it is precisely because of that reason that I am facing so much troubles now even after reuniting with my sister.

Let me say it again. This story probably won't be very interesting.

There won't be anything huge happening, no unexpected events and definitely none of those extremely exciting scenes.

And because we are siblings, there won't be much fan-service either.

If you guys are expecting any of the above scenarios, feel free to throw away this book now.

Because there are plenty of excellent stories out there that deal with major events, shocking twists and exciting action scenes. Those stories will definitely suit your taste better.

I can repeat this as many times as you like. This story has no intention of adding in elements that 'exist to entertain'.

That is because it is me, the very person narrating this story, that hopes for it more than anyone else...

"O-Onii-chan?"

"... Hmm?"

"I have a request, can you listen to me?"

"What request?"

"Please sleep with me tonight."

"....."

While in the process of reading a book, I lifted my head and looked at the speaker's face.

Long black hair that parts into two sides from the center. Like a (Japanese) princess.

Her slightly slanted eyes glittering in anticipation.

She's totally like the beauty you would see in paintings. An undoubted beauty.

However, she is my younger sister.

"... Look, Akiko."

I took a sip of tea and continued.

"Thinking back, I used to sleep with you in the same bed everyday back then."

"Yes, those were happy days."

"However, that was because we were still kids. Right now, we are both sixteen."

"Right."

"There's a saying that guys and girls cannot sleep together after the age of seven. Your request is something that shouldn't be done by blood-related siblings who are in their teenage years, understand?"

"Yes, I understand."

Upon seeing my sister nodding her head, I silently heaved a sigh of relief. She is more honest than I had expected.

Shouldn't it be this way?

Even if she is my younger sister, it is a fact that we've been separated for over six years.

After six years of separation, we are more like strangers rather than siblings. However, she seems to have been groomed into a beauty beyond my imagination. Why don't you try putting yourself in my shoes and listen to your sister asking if you could sleep together? I'd be surprised if nothing happens.

"Rest assured, Onii-chan."

Is she actually that thoughtful?

My sister gave me a smile.

"I can be together with Onii-chan again from today onwards. I've thus decided to be a good girl who listens to Onii-chan's every order. As such, I've given up on sleeping in the same bed with Onii-chan."

"Hm, is that so. Well, I am really sorry. To think that we've been separated for quite a while, and yet I poured cold water on you."

"It's nothing. I am the one at fault, to have made such a childish request. I am sorry."

"..... On my stand, I do wish to try to fulfill your request. It's just that this is too... you know?"

"All I need are those words. After six years, Onii-chan is as gentle as ever. Akiko is really happy."

With a forceful nod, she smiled at me.

She must have been too emotional at the reunion, which resulted in her saying those words just now. That must have been what is commonly referred to as "impulse".

Right. Even though both of us are going to live together in this house from now on, there shouldn't be anything to worry about.

She is just like she was. Nothing has changed. She is still a great sister.

From today onwards I should be able to live with her under the same roof without many worries.

"Even so, Onii-chan has became really daring."

For some unknown reason, Akiko said that with a slightly shy voice and a flushed face.

"Compared to Onii-chan, I am just a kid. As expected of Onii-chan."

"Hmm? Really? I don't recall saying anything like that."

"To think that our first night is not to be done in bed, but outside..... Even though it is really embarrassing, I'll still try my best."

"No, wait a second."

I asked hurriedly.

"What are you talking about? What does 'first night' mean?"

"The very first night that a pair of lovers embrace each other."

"No no, I am not asking for definitions from a dictionary. When and why has the topic changed to that sort of thing? We should be talking about sleeping in the same bed, no?"

"Wrong. We are discussing how Onii-chan and I are to spend our very memorable first night together, right?"

I knitted my eyebrows and said after a slight pause.

"..... Look, I have no idea what you're planning, but I have never thought of spending a so called 'first night' with you."

"Eeeeeeeeh!?"

My sister's voice suddenly increased by a pitch.

"That, that's a lie, right!? Is that a joke!? To say that you do not want to embrace your first night with me, that's absolutely impossible right!?"

"..... I cannot comprehend your shock."

"We've been separated for six years!"

"No, that has nothing to do with six years. We're siblings!"

"But prior to the fact that we are siblings, we are male and female!"

"No no, commonly that should be reversed. Prior to a male and female relationship, we are siblings."

I said and again as I knitted my eyebrows.

"Let's get the facts straight for now. You and I, we are siblings."

"Yes, separated for a long time and finally getting back together again. Living together from today onwards, a pair of irreplaceable siblings."

"And that means? To have our first night together?"

"Yes, Akiko's really excited."

"We are blood related siblings!"

"Love can overcome that obstacle."

"Your love means family love between siblings, right?"

"There are no different types of love. To love deeply or to love superficially that is the only thing that matters when it comes to love."

Her arguing skills sure have improved since the day we were seperated.

"..... Well, I guess I've understood what you're trying to get across."

"Right, so you do understand?"

"It's late into the night and we have to get up early tomorrow. It's almost time to sleep."

"I've been waiting for a long time. I am already mentally prepared."

"Good night, Akiko. I am going back to my room to sleep alone. You should sleep alone in your room too."

"Eeeeeeeeeeeeeh!?"

My sister shrieked. Her face became similar to that of a character in a manga. However, we are siblings and thus it can't be helped, right? Although she tends to stick a little too close to me.

"How can you do that? That's too much, Onii-chan!"

"Definitely not, I've made the most rational decision."

"Why are you allowing yourself to be brainwashed by common sense? We just so happen to be siblings, right?"

"Even if you are nonchalant about it, it's a huge matter if blood-related siblings were to do that sort of 'sleeping'! Get it?"

"But we haven't seen each other for six years!"

"Even if it is sixty years, the result will still be the same."

"To think I was really looking forward to it! To think that you would actually crush the innocence of a young girl. Onii-chan is a really horrible person!"

"Compared to the innocence of a girl, the dos and don'ts between siblings are much more important."

"It's just a pair of lovers spending the night together, why can't there be intimate body contact!? Isn't this weird!?"

"That. Is. Why! You have conveniently ignored something! Putting the lovers relationship aside, we are siblings, no!?"

I've became slightly serious. How tiring.

Letting out a sigh, I took a quick glance at my sister.

My sister was looking at me in a stance that says "I beg of you" with teary eyes akin to those of a chihuahua.

Looking from the neck down, one can see the breasts that are growing due to puberty. It stood out from those slim shoulders of hers.

The long slender legs that put emphasize on her feminine figure.

It's only been six years, but she looks like a stranger to me now.

.....

..... No. My thoughts didn't go astray, alright? That is the truth, okay?

"Well."

I cleared my throat.

"I am going to sleep. In my room, alone. I won't back down on that."

"..... I understand. I guess it can't be helped."

My sister lowered her shoulders in dejection.

"If Onii-chan has to put it that way, Akiko has no choice but to give up."

"Really? Well, I'm sorry. I actually wanted to try to fulfill your request as much as possible."

"No, it is me who had made those illogical requests. Thinking deeper into it, it is wrong for siblings to do those sorts of things. What was I thinking... It must have been because I was too emotional being reunited with Onii-chan after so long."

"Hmm, is that so?"

"I will not say those sorts of things again. From now on I'll act how the child of the Himenokouji family should and live my life carefully. Akiko will not create trouble for you again."

"Hmm, that is some great spirit from you."

"It's nothing that great."

"Well, are those your real feelings?"

"Yes. If Onii-chan cannot accept it no matter what, I'll have no choice but to strike deep in the middle of the night-"

Bam! *krakra*

"Ahhh? Not only did you close the door without saying anything, you actually applied both locks? How am I going to strike in the middle of the night? That's too much! That's really too much!"

It seems like she was saying something unreasonable beyond the door, but that's not my problem. I buried my head into the blanket and covered my ears completely.

[Onii-Ai v1] Chapter 2: 26th March (The second day of living together)

Age sixteen. Male.

Second year of high school.

Average height. Average looks. Average grades.

Both parents deceased, currently living at the house of a relative - aside from that there is nothing noteworthy. An average guy that you would find everywhere.

That's me, the entirety of Himenokouji Akito. Or at least that was the case, until yesterday.

"I believe that bro-con is a sort of personality."

My sister began her speech as she ate her breakfast.

"Brother-complex..... That is a precious sort of love that can only be allowed if the two people in question are very close to each other. Think about it. Even though there are over a billion people on earth, how many brothers would actually be loved by a bro-con younger sister? Maybe one or two, at most there would be ten or so. Onii-chan should first recognize the rarity of such an event. Then, you should acknowledge the beauty of this unique love that is brought about by the close relationship of siblings."

"Mhmmmm."

"Next, for someone to openly show her bro-con feelings and treat it as something to be proud of, there can be only me. Bro-con is not only my personality, but also my badge."

"Really? Well, this miso soup tastes really great."

"Yes, I felt that I cooked it really well today. There's still plenty left."

"Oh, great. Another bowl please."

"Alright, how much more do you want? A bowl? Or half a bowl?"

"Hmm, half a bowl."

"Understood. Here you go."

"Mhmm, thanks."

"Please eat more so you can get more nutrients. Back on topic, talking about bro-con-"

"Oh? These seasoned vegetables taste great too. Did Akiko make them as well?"

"Yes. In my preparation to live with Onii-chan once more, I had prepared the sauce for the seasoning a long time ago. Does it suit your taste?"

"Yup, this tastes great. Akiko has become really good at cooking."

"Yes, I've put in much effort to learn it. Back on topic, regarding bro-con-"

"Oh? This seaweed soup tastes great."

"That's just something sold at the market! I'm assuming that Onii-chan has absolutely no intention of hearing my speech, right?"

My sister nearly flipped the table over when she realized my ploy.

But what was wrong with that? Why should I happily listen to my sister's talk about bro-con first thing in the morning?

Not to mention, the person whom she loves is me!

"It is something really important, so listen to me carefully!"

"No. Well,"

I gave a sigh and continued.

"Even though I know you're a bro-con, why do you love me that deeply? To tell you the truth, I don't think I deserve it."

"That's not true!" Akiko swung her fist about and continued on with full force. "I find Onii-chan really suave! Onii-chan is the only one I loved ever since the beginning!"

"We haven't seen each other for six years. And we just reunited yesterday."

"It has nothing to do with that!"

I don't understand how she can be so firm about that, but whatever. Her stance on absolutely not changing her mind has indeed been conveyed to me.

"All right, I understand."

Well, I should make a compromise.

"I'll listen to what you have to say carefully. Indeed, I can't ignore the sexual preferences of my sister."

"Please do not call it a sexual preference. It's a personality or in other words, an *identity*."

"Okay okay, your bro-con is a sort of personality that is so rare that you should be proud of it. You should be fine with what I said right? And so? What are the feelings and thoughts that you're trying to convey?"

"Right. And so."

Akiko cleared her throat.

"As a reward for the delicious breakfast I've made, please hug me." [TLNote: The term 抱く/抱いて in Japanese can mean both "to embrace" and "to sleep with".]

"..... I am extremely worried about the changes that had happened to the inside of your head."

"Sorry, I got carried away."

"It's great that you realize that."

"Right, I've given up on that. Just a kiss will do."

"Doesn't that increase the difficulty of your request?"

"Or you can just hug me once."

"So the hug you are referring to is not of the typical meaning, but the one used between a male and a female?"

"In any case!"

Akiko slammed on the table with a bang. Her eyebrows were arching upwards.

"I just want a reward from Onii-chan! Why can't you understand that!?"

"I should be the one who feels like throwing a tantrum!"

"As long as I get to be intimate with Onii-chan, I am happy!"

"Hey, you're asking for more and more."

"..... Fufu, could it be that Onii-chan is still not aware of the situation he is in?"

The edge of her lips lifted slightly. Akiko let out a sinister smile with an expression that was full of herself.

"To indulge me in my childishness, it can also be considered as being intimate with me. If there were people who see this scene, they would inevitably think like this: 'Ah, those two are really lovey-dovey'. Fufu..... You did not realize that you had totally fallen into my trap, and now you are forcing a calm expression. Onii-chan is really cute."

"Well, putting that aside, can you get me more miso soup? It's really delicious."

"Right! There's more, so drink as much as you like!"

Even though she mumbled something with a slightly evil look, she still took my bowl with a bright smile when I handed it to her.

How should I put it... She's probably just too excited about us reuniting and hasn't calmed down, which has resulted in her being shy. All the talk about having a brother complex is most probably fake. She was just saying it without really meaning it. Perhaps that's how it actually is.

Honestly, it's impossible for me not to be happy about it. To be together with a younger sister like her.

*

Indeed.

This younger sister is pretty attached to me.
Back then, we would always do everything together.

Since our parents were mostly not at home due to work, it had always been my job to take care of my younger sister, who's the same age as me.

"I love Onii-chan the most!"

I heard such words everyday.

Of course, I've never considered the fact that the 'love' she meant wasn't towards family members, but towards the opposite sex. Not even in my dreams.

"The weather's great."

My sister said while sitting by my side and holding a cup of steaming hot tea.

Using an expression akin to that of a cat lying about lazily while basking in the sun,

"... If Onii-chan will give me a lap pillow, things would be even more perfect."

"I'll say it first. That's a no."

"... If Onii-chan would give me a lap pillow, I'll die without a regret."

"Stop making it sound emotional!"

Even though I said that, I was feeling really great.

Even though we were forced to be separated for a long time so much so that we have became like strangers, my younger sister is still my younger sister. Honestly speaking, these feelings don't feel half bad.

That's right.

Right now, it's near the end of March.

We moved during the spring holidays.

From the places that we both sojourned in.

To come to this wooden two-story apartment that is slightly shabby and has stood for over seventy years.

(... I'm surprised I was the only one who found this place.)

I thought to myself while looking at the backyard that is filled with dead grass due to the lack of management.

Compared to the places we came from, this place is incredibly shabby. For now, we are the only ones living in this apartment that was scheduled to be torn down in the near future-

"I have to thank the Arisugawa family."

My sister said in a slightly serious tone.

"I've caused a lot of trouble for them, and received plenty of their care and concern. They had raised me as though I was their own daughter."

"That's right. Even though both Kiyotsugu and Shouko have their own secrets..... Nevertheless I am still grateful to them, really. However, just this time-"

"It's already a thing of the past."

"Alright, I guess."

"Truthfully speaking, this is something that had been decided way back. It was decided on the very same day when I was separated from Onii-chan. One day, I would leave the Arisugawa family and reunite with Onii-chan."

"..... Well, I guess as much. Your actions were obvious."

"Yes. And this day has finally arrived. Finally."

And with that, my sister gave a light smile.

A smile that has more warmth than coldness. It's a smile that doesn't really fit the current atmosphere, a smile similar to a falling sakura flower that is about to meet its demise.

As though she had constantly been looking forward to the arrival of this very moment for everyday for the past six years.

"Once again, please take care of me, Onii-chan."

..... I thought to myself.

With her behaving like this, it just shows how well brought up she is.

To be adopted by a family that is famous beyond fame, and to undergo an education befitting of their status.

From her looks, the way she walks, her sitting posture and many other things - she has transformed into an impressive lady that will not embarrass herself no matter what situation she's in.

Even though for these six years, aside from written letters (and it had to go through two checks, both the Arisugawa family and the Takanomiya family), the Arisugawa family had forbidden us from making any contact with each other. However, I still have to thank them for raising Akiko well.

Well, except for the point where she has became someone who can proudly announce that she has a brother complex.....

I can't really see it as something moe and just ignore it. Instead, it is more like a 'brace yourself and grind your teeth for my incoming's punch' type of feeling.

"I am sorry, Onii-chan."

Just when I was thinking about such random things, my sister apologized to me out of the blue.

"That was a really depressing talk. We should stop talking about it. These conversational topics are no longer suitable for the current us."

"Mm..... indeed, you're right."

"Even though we are really close siblings, it has been six years since we last met each other. I think it is inevitable for some awkwardness to exist between us."

"Yes, you're right."

"Regarding that."

My sister cleared her throat and looked at me seriously.

"Akito-san."

"Eh?"

"Akito-san."

"......??"

Suddenly, I was called by my name.

"Eh? What? What's the wrong now? Why did you suddenly change the way you address me? Didn't you always address me as 'Onii-chan'?"

"Yes. That's right, Akito-san."

With an imposing manner, my sister stuck her face close to mine.

"If I address you like this, we will not feel awkward anymore."

"Eh? Mm, is that... so?"

We had been separated for quite a long time, and it turns out that the period of time happened to be the most melancholic period in our teenage years. It will be highly impossible for us to get along like how we do back in the old days - though of course, I will love to do just that if I can.

"That is something that we are helpless in. I understand, Akito-san."

She said while closing down on me with an intensive aura, which forced me to lean further backwards.

"However, that's a pity. To think we had put in so much effort to be together again... and yet us siblings have to act like strangers towards each other. Don't you think that something is wrong here, Akito-san?"

"Mm, mm, indeed, that's right."

Although I understand.

But what does that have to do with calling me by my *first name*?

And another thing. Why does she have to force herself to end her sentences with 'Akito-san'?

"Yes, it seems like you've noticed what I am pointing out."

With a smile,

"To abandon the term 'Onii-chan' which I have used to address you for years, and changed to calling you by your name. That shows that I've put in a great amount of effort."

"Aha!"

"Isn't it so? It is impossible to call each other by our names unless we have a very deep relationship with each other. To me, it is something very difficult to do..... But I've done it."

That does make some sense.

I've no idea how things work in America, but in Japan, you will need to satisfy a lot of conditions first before you can address someone by their name - I shouldn't have to explain something as common-sense as this.

In other words, if we are to address each other by our names, it will automatically reduce the awkwardness between us.

I see. So she is actually thinking about a lot of stuff by herself. Well, I guess it is time for me reflect on it.

Isn't this something that I should be doing as her elder brother?

"I've been letting you think about too many things."

I retorted by reflex.

"There is still something not quite right. It feels like we are doing something wrong when I am addressed like that by you."
"You are just not used to it. Soon it will feel natural to you."

"But..... to be called 'Akito-san' by my younger sister..... I still feel that there's a subtle strangeness to it."

"Well, there is a saying that goes: 'the journey of a thousand miles begins with your first step'. We have to start off with things we are able to do."

"Please accept it. With that, we will be able to make a step forward. And with this as a pivot, we will slowly shorten the distance between us. Step by step, we will erase the awkwardness and hesitation from our hearts."

I was gradually shaken as my sister continued to convince me even further.

It will definitely feels comfortable if we are to continue living together with that awkwardness between us. Also, I do not have any other methods to break past this situation.

"I understand. We'll go with this."

"Okay, I am extremely grateful that you can accept my proposition."

"It's nothing to be grateful about. It's not easy to be living together again, so I do want to get along well with you."

"Thank you very much. I am really happy to hear those words from you."

A smile. My sister flashed me a smile that fully portrayed her happy feelings.

...Uh.

It has been like this since then.

My sister has always been an obedient child.

I am not boasting or anything, but her good upbringing has a lot to do with me. Like I had just said, our parents weren't always around. Thus, the job of educating my sister landed onto me. I've always taught her to 'be an outstanding person', and she had answered to my expectations wonderfully.

"Well, without further ado,"

My sister cleared her throat.

"Akito-san."

"Yes? What?"

"Nothing."

"......Oh?"

"Heehee. Akito-san."

"What?"

"Nothing. I am just trying it out."
"..... Really?"
My sister seems to be in a really good mood.

..... Well, if this can erase the distance between us, I guess I'll just let her be. It's all worth it to see her in such a happy state. It's due how incapable I was that had led to us being separated for six years. If this can allow me to slightly lessen my sins, it's nothing too bad.

"You seems really happy, Akiko."

"Yes, very happy. This brings me one step closer to my aim."

"Your aim?"

"Because it's a lot more intimate than I thought it would be when I address Akito-san like this."

My sister is twisting her body.

"We have finally moved into our love-nest after so many difficulties, and yet we have not even touched each other once..... We have to break that predicament as soon as possible. If we do not break down the barriers between us quickly, we will never welcome our very first night, right?"

"Akiko."

"Yes?"

"Forget it. I forbid you to call me by my name."

"Ehhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh?"

My sister leaned backwards and screamed in shock. If I were to say it, it's much more shocking

to me when you screams at such things, understand?

"I really can't lower my guard against you. No matter what sort of stuff, you can still link it towards that."

"But, isn't it normal for intimate lovers to address each other by name!?"

"Since when have I turned into your lover? We're siblings, okay?"

"That's way too much! You cannot just take back what you had just agreed on not too long ago! There should be a limit to being fickle!"

"No matter what, no. Understand?"

"Wait! Wait a moment!"

My sister kept closing in on me.

"How about this - as a compromise, I will change the tone slightly. Is that okay?"

"Change the tone?"

What is she planning?

"Yes. If I change my tone slightly, perhaps I can remove the bad impression that Onii-chan has. For example-"

She cleared her throat in a rather serious manner and put on a smile.

"Akito-san ♥"

"Whoa?"

What's with this situation? Is it just my imagination? For some unknown reason it feels really dangerous.

"How's that?"

"Ugh. Even if you ask me that... your actions....."

"Looks like I have to do it in another tone. How about this then?"

She cleared her throat again in a rather serious manner, then gave a smile.

"......Akito-san *pants*"

"Ugh?"

Wh-What's with this? It feels even more dangerous now..... To be honest, I felt a chill running down my spine.....

"Hm. Looks like this will not work either. Then..."

ahem

"......Akito-san. Hee. Hee. Hee..."

"Ugh. Your evil intentions just flowed out of your mouth."

Even if it is me, I have finally understood.

Really, my sister is just.....

"You know, you have been talking about removing my bad impressions, right? All those things you've been doing till now will just produce opposite results."

"Ehehe. Looks like I am busted."

"..... Look, please control yourself, okay? To be linking anything to that sort of stuff - are you a cat in heat?"

"Uhh. Don't you think that is a little impolite, to describe me that way?"

"Ah..... Indeed. I'm sorry."

"That's right. Even if it is me who loves cats a lot and agree that they are cute; even if I wish to have a cat in this apartment if I can; even if I am someone who will definitely hug and pet a cat when I see one on the street, it still disturbs me if you treat me as one. Ultimately, cats are just small animals that are in heat due to their instincts, while I am someone who is horny the whole year based on my will. There is totally no room for comparison."

"On the rare occasion when I listened to your long speech until the very end, I ended up realizing that I am actually digging my own grave. How should I console myself?"

I let out a sigh.

And took a glance at my sister who's looking at me with a bright smile.

..... Forget it, I'll just treat it as that.

By constantly repeating these retarded conversations, we had already cleared away some of the awkwardness between us.

My sister had probably realized that earlier, and was thus harping on this topic.

"No worries Onii-chan. I won't be horny for anyone but you."

"Urgh. You are not making me feel any better with that."

I let out yet another sigh.

To be together with an outspoken and cute younger sister.

Things are developing really nicely for us to be reunited again like this. It has way exceeded my expectations, and I'm really thankful for it.

To be honest, it's a little too much for me to handle.

[Onii-Ai v1] Chapter 3: 27th March (The third day of living together)

ring..... ring.....

"Oh it's you. How's your health?"

The voice of my friend was transmitted through the phone. That person still sounds as optimistic as ever.

"You've waited till today to call. That's really heartless of you. Ever since you moved I have been waiting earnestly for your call."

Those words showed just a hint of complaint in them.

"Sorry. Moving into a new house was much more troublesome than I had expected. That is why-"

"Forget it. I've hugged my pillow and cried in it every night due to you not contacting me. However, by talking to you through the phone, this regret seems to have slowly disappeared - just like how the morning sun makes the mist disappear. Just on this fact alone, I shall forget about your heartlessness."

"What an exaggerating fellow."

"So how are things? Cohabitating with your beautiful younger sister."

"This is not cohabitating. The opposite party is my younger sister, you know. Really, why do you have to start talking about such things as well..."

"Hm. And that means the main purpose of your call is to talk about your younger sister?"

"Yeah. That's how it is."

With that, I told that person the incidents that happened during the period that I was living with my sister.

"..... I see. So you must be confused right now."

"Well, something like that. She's someone whom Kiyotsugi-san and Shouko-san - people from the Arisugawa family - heaps praises on. I think she has grown into quite the elegant lady."

"What's wrong with being elegant?"

"Well, she has changed into someone whom I can no longer recognize - except when she's interacting with me."

"But from what you just said, I think your sister is someone who has control over herself."

"Even though she repeatedly talked about sex-related matters with her brother?"

"She can't help it. Because your younger sister is someone who really-really-really loves you the most, to the point where she cannot control herself, right? From a male-female point of view."

"..... We are siblings, no?"

"I'm not really concerned about that, you know? Anyway, your sister has love for you that surpasses the taboo between siblings, this much I am certain of."

"Huh... Mmm. So it is really like this?"

"Unless everything you told me just now was actually your wild fantasies, there is no other explanation for your sister's behavior."

Right.

Even though I don't really want to admit it, it seems like that is indeed the case regarding my sister's actions.

"So that's just that. To put it simply, it is 'accidental deterioration'."

"Accidental deterioration?"

"A cold that is healed to about ninety-percent, but a virus infected your windpipe due to carelessness, causing the cough to continue on for days - that's roughly how it is. Your sister's illness is probably something like that."

"Huh?"

"Think about it. Your parents were never home. And as a result, you had replaced them in educating your sister, right? Even though you are only her fraternal twin brother, who is of the same age."

"Hm, I guess. It's something like that."

"There's a saying that everyone will more or less have a complex on their father or mother. That is because for most people, the person who made them realize the existence of the opposite sex will definitely be their father or mother. However, in the case of your sister, the situation is slightly special..... In the process of her growing up, the only person by her side was you - her blood related elder brother. Thus for your younger sister, you are the person who caused her to realize the existence of the opposite sex."

"Urm..... I guess it should be something like that."

"Typically speaking, as time goes by it will be natural to realize that 'This person is not someone whom I can fall in love with'. The body and mind will understand that fact. However, in the case of your sister, she was actually taken away from you just when she was about to undergo that experience. A process that is essential, and yet the main subject was not around at the crucial time. That is perhaps the reason for her brother complex."

"Wait. What is the similarity between that and your so called accidental deterioration of a cold?"

"Isn't a cold's deterioration commonly caused by one not resting well and taking in the required nutrients when it is needed?"

I see.

Indeed, this can be a possible reason. After being told by my friend's eloquent speech, I felt like

I had understood something from it.

But how should I say it.

According to this theory, it sounds like I am at fault for my sister's 'accidental deterioration'. But that is just really...how should I put it? Should I say that I cannot really accept it or that I cannot agree with it honestly?

Because back then, I had my own problems as well.

Our parents were quite horrible as family members. However, they were two natural people whom you couldn't really hate. Just like kids who open their eyes wide and focus on their work, you can't really tell them to put down their jobs.

So I had put in my biggest efforts back then.

No matter what, I had to shoulder the responsibility and raise this little sister - like that.

"Forget it, that's nothing too major."

My friend said.

"I said it just now, didn't I? From the looks of it, your sister knows how to control herself. She won't do anything reckless."

"Is..... that so?"

"Isn't that so? Even if the guy is someone whom she really-really-really loves so very much and had just reunited after a six-year gap, she hasn't pushed you down up till now - that's because she respects your wishes. If this is not called self-control, what else would you call it?"

"Eh? So now I am someone who's to be pushed down.....?"

"Of course. Or should I say, if I'm your sister, I'd act the moment we were reunited."

"Whoa!"

"Well, that's just what might have happened. I'm afraid this sort of thing will never happen. Just be at ease and make up for the times that you should have spent living together with your younger sister..... Even so, if your sister has grown into a beauty during these past six years, to the point where you have nearly forgotten the fact that you and her are actually siblings - that will be another matter altogether."

"Hahaha. How can that be possible?"

'Bingo, you got it' - how can I possibly say that out loud?

***

- After a long talk, the long awaited chat with my friend had finally ended.

(That's very slow.....?)

Lifting my head and taking a look at the clock in the living room, I tilted my head and thought.

My sister still isn't out from the bathroom.

Of course, I do know that girls spend a long time bathing. Even so, isn't it a bit too long? It has nearly been an hour.

..... Should I go take a look?

Urgh...but wait. It feels really embarrassing to approach a personal space like the bathroom just like that. And I have to take it a step further by entering and taking a look? How can that be possible?

However, there were indeed such times, right? We used to bathe together, right? Then again, those are things that happened years ago and cannot be applied to a sister whom I haven't seen for the past six years.

Hmm. What should I do in this situation? I really wish I could consult all the brothers who have a younger sister in her prime age and seek their help.

Mmm. Whatever. Better safe than sorry. This is no time to harp on such trivial matters. For now I should try calling from a distance away-

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..... Just when I was thinking that, the sound of footsteps got closer.

Light and hurried footsteps. From the direction of the bathroom.

"Onii-chan!"

swash

With a yell, my sister yanked open the curtains and stepped into the room,

"What's with this!?"

"Urm... What's with your 'what's with this?'....."

I was frozen solid in an instant.

I couldn't help it, really.

A young girl, the same age as me came into my view all of the sudden with just a towel covering her body. I think anyone would've had the same reaction as me, regardless of the fact that the other person is their sister. Probably.

.....Wait. What the heck?

What the hell is wrong with her? How can her skin be that fair?

Taking another look at her from head to toe. That's a really hot body.

Long legs. Slender waist. A tender chest that is surprisingly attention-grabbing.

Really, those breasts didn't look that huge when she is wearing her clothes... There should be a limit on how much you can conceal your figure with your clothes.

Ahhhhh. Enough is enough.

Please let me off the hook.

"Look,"

While shifting my view to something else,

"Just put on your clothes for now, okay?"

"Don't change the topic!"

"Ehhhhhh?"

"I am asking you - what's with this?"

"I am sorry, but what's with what?"

My sister's eyes had turned into the shape of inverted triangles. It looks like she is really angry.

I just can't understand what is causing her to be this mad.

Did I do anything wrong?

Considering the current situation, my guess is that something must have happened, and it should be related to the bathroom. All I had done was chat with my friend over the phone, then drank some tea right here with my legs crossed.

The me who has absolutely no idea what he had done to incur her anger, is currently being stared at by his sister with a "jiiiiiiiiiiiiii".

Lifting her rather elastic chest, she said.

"I am clearly bathing in the bathroom. Why are you not peeping!?"

.....

"Eh? What language are you speaking in?"

"I am speaking standard Japanese!"

My sister closed in as the expression in her eyes sharpened.
Urm, sorry.

Ignoring your face for a moment, can you please not close in on me with that cleavage of yours?

"Urm..... Can you repeat that? I couldn't quite catch that."

"I was saying, I was clearly in the bathroom bathing. Why are you not peeping!?"

It looks like I didn't hear anything wrong.

"Hm. I understand. But Akiko."

"Yes?"

"I think whatever you just said has seriously deviated from common sense."

"Ehhhhhhhhh?"

My sister leaned backwards exaggeratedly.

It will feel like I'm the one who is saying the wrong things if you make an expression like that..... I am not wrong, okay? What I just said is the truth, isn't that right?

"Please take a look!"

With that said, my sister stretched her arms towards me.

"This clear and smooth skin! It's beautiful, right!?"

"And so it is. It's definitely beautiful."

"Right!"

With a nod on the head that looks like she wanted to expel all of her anger.

"In order to allow Onii-chan to marvel at this skin of mine, I have taken great care of it everyday!"

"Mhmm. Should I say thanks?"

"This is the skin that I am proud of and took great attention to maintain everyday!!"

"Mhmm. That's really impressive."

"Forget about peeping! You should be pouncing on me right now!!"

"I don't feel anything like that."

"Why!?"

My sister was dumbstruck, as though she was someone who has been wrongly sentenced to death. It looks like in her dictionary, the term 'siblings' still does not exist.

Upon taking a closer look, I realized that her hair is still dry. She must have been soaking in the bathtub, waiting for me to peep... something like that. She was probably happily waiting for me while humming a tune.
I don't know why, but I feel slightly guilty when I think of it this way..... No no, wake up, me. The person without any common sense is obviously my sister.

Come to think of it, I felt something weird back then.

Even though it was in the middle of the day, my sister said to me "I suddenly feel like taking a bath", as she ran happily out of her room. And on her way out, she kept sending me suggestive looks using her eyes. So that was what she meant. Hm, I didn't realize that.

"Forget it and calm down for a moment, Akiko. Want a cup of tea?"

"Please do not divert from the subject!"

"What, so you don't want any? This tea is especially and carefully brewed by me just for you. Well you see, wouldn't one be thirsty after a bath?"

"I'll drink it with much appreciation!"

In an instant, the expressions on her face changed into a smiling one. She took small precious sips of the tea, and drank it slowly.

Well, I guess I got off easy by using just a cup of tea to make her happy. Even though she is still only covered with a towel... sigh... please let me off the hook.

"..... Fuu. It tastes really good, thank you. Tea that is personally brewed by Onii-chan is really something special."

"I am flattered."

"..... *coughcough*. Thanks to this cup of tea, I'll ignore your blunder just this once."

"Eh?"

Blunder?

Mine?

So this incident is my fault?

What a refreshing train of thought.

"As such, I am going take a bath again. We will start all over."

You're still going to do it!?

"This time around, I'll wash myself slowly too."

"Hm. Is that so? That's not a problem with me, but be careful not to faint from soaking yourself too long in the bath."

"Right. I'll clean myself thoroughly and slowly."

"Hmm. I don't understand what you're talking about, but as long as you're happy."

"Then I'll make a move. I'll clean myself slowly, thoroughly and leisurely, okay?"

With that, my sister left the room.
..... She really likes to bathe.

Oh, it must be that - it seems like she hasn't washed her hair and body yet. Which means to say that these two areas will be the focus point in for this round. I guess that is fine. It feels comfortable to see a girl who loves cleanliness. I welcome that, even if she is my sister.

What should I do now?

There's still stuff left unpacked. In order to keep up with the pace of the lessons at the new school I'm about to transfer to, I should take a look at the textbooks as well.

Well, since it's still spring-holiday, forget it. I'll luxuriously waste my youth by reading some books which lacks substance while drinking some tea.

.....

....

....

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"Onii-chan! Hey, Onii-chan!?"

One hour later.

Accompanied by her noisy footsteps, my sister rushed into the room with a bad expression on her face.

"What in the world is this?"

"I won't peek at you no matter how long you soak yourself in the bathtub."

"Isn't that too much? I've wasted so much effort to invite you to peek!"

"So you do know you've said too much. Anyway, I'll never go and peek; to peek at my sister while she is bathing and so on. How can I ever do such a perverted thing!?"

"As long as there is love, pervertedness and whatever are just minor details!"

"No matter what, no. No means no."

"Uhhhhhh! Onii-chan is a bully!"

She actually called me a bully.

That's probably the first time I've been called that since I was born.

"Ahhhh! I've had enough!"

My sister was swinging her arms about. She looked furious.

"If that is the case, I'll never talk to Onii-chan ever again!"

"Mhmm."

"Please don't answer me casually while reading your book!"
"Yeah yeah."

"I am serious! I will really never talk to you again! Please have a taste of being ignored by your cute sister, then cry as you reflect upon your sins!"

swash

patapatapata

After she closed the curtains forcibly, my sister ran towards the bathroom.

..... And after that.

Just as she said, she did not talk to me.

She actually persisted for two hours.

Long story short, as she could not bear the agony of not talking to me forever, so she came running to me with teary eyes and requested for us to reconcile. Something like that.

And after that reconciliation, she changed back into her cheery and talkative self again.

And as a symbol of our reconciliation, she even squeezed out some cash from our already tight budget to prepare a luxurious dinner.

How should I put it? She is a really cute fellow.

[Onii-Ai v1] Chapter 4: 28th March (The forth day of living together)

"Onii-chan, shall we buy some stuff together?"

A certain sunny afternoon.

My sister made that suggestion while we are tidying our luggage from the house moving.

"Hmm?"

"Yes, I've been thinking for a while-"

As she said that, she looked around our 2LDK apartment. [TLNote: 2LDK refers to an apartment with a living room, 2 bedrooms and 1 kitchen]

"We do lack a lot of daily necessities. Instead of buying them individually as we need them, it'll be better if we can get them all in one go."

"Mm."

The house moving was indeed slightly rushed. Since both my sister and I had forcefully left our houses, it's though we had absconded in the eyes of others. We did not manage to prepare much except for the basic furniture and daily necessities.

Instead of buying items individually from different shops to tide us over, it would indeed save us time if we plan out what to get and get them all in one shot.

"Alright, I understand. Let's prepare to go out then."

"Okay, let's go."

"I'll say this first. We can't buy things that are too expensive, alright?"

"I know that. We have to be frugal."

That is because we do not have much savings with us.

The rich people from the Arisugawa family and the Takanomiya family had offered us all sorts of help before; but due to what I had explained earlier, we did not received any monetary aid from them this time.

The daily expenses of us siblings comes from my savings which I had amassed after much difficulties. Having reached the forth day of living together..... no wait. Rather, ever since the first day, the funds of the Himenokouji family are in dire states.

And thus we went on our way.

We took a train that took us to the center of the city..... yeah right. Actually, it's just a store nearby that is slightly bigger than your average ones.

"What a huge store."

My sister exclaimed as she lifted her head to look at the four story building, which had a park garage that can hold nearly a thousand cars.

For someone who was raised as a daughter of a rich family, she must not have came to these type of stores often.

By the way, my sister is currently wearing her school uniform with a coat on. In order to break off her ties from the Arisugawa family, she had basically left her clothes back there.

"..... I am sorry, Akiko."

"About what?"

"Because I am really useless. I can't even buy you proper clothes....."

"Ahh, you mean that."

As she said that, she slightly opened up her coat to reveal her uniform underneath. Her uniform incorporates both modern and classical elements into its excellent design.

"No worries, I really like this uniform a lot. I wore this all the time back at the Arisugawa as well. It may not look like it, but it is light and great for moving about. Also, don't you think it fits me very much?"

It is like what she had said.

It really suits her. To the point where it's like the uniform is designed with my sister in mind.

However, it is still a little...

Ultimately, if she did not leave the Arisugawa family, she would not need to get out and buy whatever things she needs. To fall to the point where she had to scrimp and save on her clothes, I don't think I am to be forgiven for her dire state.

"Please do not show that kind of expression, Onii-chan."

Contrary to me, my sister is smiling cheerfully,

"I need neither clothes nor money. To me, nothing is more important than being able to be together with Onii-chan. As long as this is fulfilled, I need nothing else."

"You sure know how to talk."

"Also, don't you think that our current lifestyle is great? Take our current house for example - we have things to eat and a roof over our heads. I really like it. Compared to the Arisugawa's mansion where I was surrounded by maids, I liked it way better here. And also, we are now using Onii-chan's money all these while right? I can't even thank you enough, so why would I complain?"

"Really. Mmm. So that's how it is."

"Actually, Onii-chan had no assistance from the Takanomiya family as well, so how did you manage to come out with the money? That is the question that I wanted to ask. Onii-chan has told me nothing about it."

"Ahhaha. I see, that's..."

Well, we are finally on this topic, huh.

It's not something that I say proudly, which is the reason why I've kept it secret all these while.

Ah, even so, it's not something illegal. Rest assured.

"Uuuhh, you actually want to hide it from your dear sister. This is a very serious situation. If you do not wish to tell me no matter what, I'll have no choice but to ask for help from the Arisugawa's intelligence, even if it means-"

"Listen to me, Akiko."

I smiled gently to my sister, who seems to be mumbling something quite troublesome. I said,

"From now on, it will be great if we can live together forever. Even though that shabby apartment does have its inconveniences, it's also a very interesting experience- that's how I feel from the bottom of my heart. That's because I like Akiko the most."

"..... It's obvious that you are changing the subject, but forget it. I can only smile lightly when I hear those sugar-coated words. Honestly speaking, my mood became really good after hearing that."

"Is that so? That's great."

She accepted it even though she knew I was just trying to chase her away from the subject. I really like this sister.

"After all, we had finally reunited after so long. The two of us should live together blissfully until the world ends."

"Mhmm."

"..... However, should Onii-chan insist on not touching me like he's been doing for a while now, perhaps there will be a day where I finally feel disheartened and return back to the Arisugawa's..... ?"

"Mhmm. Why not today then..... okay?"

"Sorry, Onii-chan. It looks like Akiko got carried away."

"It's great you realized that."

With that, we stepped into the store.

We are in our spring break and are thus not in the position to be saying this, but today happens to be Sunday..... which means that it is extremely crowded.

"Well, where should we start?"

I fished out a notebook while looking at the signs.

"Onii-chan, that is?"

"A list of what to buy. I've written down the items that we need to get some time ago. It was a result of my discussion with a friend."

"Oh.....?"

My sister narrowed her eyes and stared at the notebook.

From top to bottom, then diagonally across, just like a thorough CT scan - just when I was thinking of that, my sister actually sniffed the notebook.

"..... Akiko?"

"Something's not right."

That line came out of her mouth.

"Onii-chan, what is the name of this person? Also, what is this person's relationship with Onii-chan?"

"Eh?"

"Please answer me honestly."

"Urm, there is nothing to be dishonest about..... Just a friend with a slightly weird name, called Sawatari Ginbe Haruomi. My best friend before I came to this place. Due to certain circumstances, that person has been living alone as well. As such, I've obtained a lot of information and experience, and was taught many useful tips. This notebook is the product of that."

"..... Hmph. Is that so?"

However, my sister kept staring at me with a 'jiiiiiiiiiii'.

"So a woman's sixth sense can be wrong occasionally."

She explained to herself as she sprouted that confusing line.

..... What exactly is happening here?

"Back on topic. Onii-chan, what is that?"

And she forcefully changed the subject..... but whatever.

Let me see, where..... I turned my gaze to the direction where my sister is pointing at.

And then, I saw a salesperson in red holding a sign that says <Limited Offer!>.

"Ah-. It looks like something is on offer."

"Of-fer?"

"To sell cheaply. *Discount sale*. They are selling items at prices lower than usual in order to attract customers."

"How much cheaper than usual?"

My sister's eyes are sparkling brightly.

"What are they selling, at what price?"

"Let me take a look..... A one-time use warmer that are sold in packs of ten, at ten-percent of its original price. Or so it says."

"At ten percent?"

She got more excited.

"Calm down Akiko. Even if it is sold at just a tenth of its original price, those are actually one-time use warmers, you know? Spring is approaching, so now is not the time to be buying these. Instead of calling it a sale, it is just a front for them to clear their stocks-"

"Come to think of it. Onii-chan, what are one-time use loops? Are they edible?" [TLNote: Just a Japanese word play here, apparently they sound similar]

So she is that excited even though she has no idea what it was. Wow, this is exactly what I am expecting from someone who had education as a rich lady.....

Even though I said that, frankly speaking, I did grow up in a rather well-to-do family as well.

After my explanation, my sister got more interested,

"To think that such a convenient item actually exists..... I've never heard of them while I was at the Arisugawa family. 'Those items for commoners are not something to be used by members of the Arisugawa family', they were probably thinking along those lines. Judging a book by its cover."

"Well, I guess it is."

"Onii-chan, let's buy that."

"Hold on hold on. Our objectives for coming here is to buy daily necessities that we will be using, right?"

"However, they are cheaper than normal by ninety percent?"

"Even so, it is just cheaper by roughly a hundred yen. Just that amount of money-"

"Even a hundred yen is important. Those who laugh at a hundred yen will be crying for a hundred yen someday."

"It is indeed just as you say."

Mmm.

Looks like she is reacting quite a bit to the fact that it is 'cheaper than normal'. It is probably due to the influences of the Arisugawa family. They had a tradition of buying low and selling high for generations.

And also, it is probably just her simply wanting to try out something unheard of.

"Onii-chan, please make up your mind. Or else they could be sold out."

"I don't think the warmers, which are something of the previous season, will be gone in a flash..... whatever. Go get it. However, you can only buy one pack, alright?"

"Okay! Here I go!"

"Are you sure you can go alone?"

"No problem. I am still pretty clear about the differences between a five yen coin and a ten yen coin, and other things like that"

I am worried.

"If it is carved with a '10', it is a ten yen coin. Even though it is similar, but if it has a hole, it is a five yen coin. Having a hole means its value is halved right?"

"....."

"Please do not look at me like that. It is just a joke."

"..... Be careful, alright? You used to live a life where you don't have to step out of the house. I am worried."

"I know that there are alternative ways of paying for items other than using cards. Also, I do know that aside notes, there are other forms of currency as well. There is no need to worry."

"I am really worried."

"Here I go!"

Ignoring my worries, my sister rushed towards the place energetically.

Whatever. She does have a lot to learn about the new lifestyle, and this just happens to be a good opportunity for her to do so. I guess this is what you mean by allowing a child to go on their own trip despite loving them.

Even so.

That girl is someone who really attracts attention.

Black long hair, gray coat and black tights.

Those are actually your everyday common wear, and yet she was emitting a very strong sense of presence. I looked on as the passersby turned their heads and gave my sister a second look. As her brother, I was honestly really proud.

Oh. She is stopping at the sales area.

Although I can't hear what she is saying to the salesperson, it is probably just something like 'can you please give me a pack of that'. Facing my sister who is showing a carefree smile, the salesperson's face turned slightly red.

It's not hard to imagine.

That is because my sister is a beauty that will not embarrass herself wherever she goes - that is if you take away the problem that is her brother-complex.

-Oh. She's back, she's back.

"I am back."

"Mm. Welcome back."

"You see, I've brought them without any problems."

"Mhmm. Well done."

"As a reward, please pat my head!"

"Why?"

"Can I take it out and try it now!?"

"Ah. Mhmm. No problem."

Even though she will probably sweat like she is in a sauna if she use those things right now.

Forget it.

My sister showed a very satisfied expression after taking a warmer out of the pack and sticking it to her face. If it makes her that happy, I guess the cash spent is cheap and well worth it. Even though I cannot buy nice clothing for her, I can still satisfy her desires if they are things like these cheap warmers.

Well then.

It looks like I've made her happy, and thus it is time to continue our shopping-

"Onii-chan, Onii-chan!"

My sister waved her arms excitedly as she shouted.

"Please look at that! The limited sales have started again! This time it shows 'mandarin oranges'! It's actually mandarin oranges! Ah, looks like the opposite area has started as well! The detergent over there are actually sold at such a low price - everywhere else is starting the sales before I can finish my sentence! Let's go, Onii-chan!"

"......Ah-"

"Hurry hurry! Hold on to me tighter, or else everything will be sold out! The stocks are limited!"

"Ah- Geez-. I get it."

Forget it.

I do like to eat mandarin oranges. Also, there should not be any problem if the detergent are not used for quite a while. Queuing up together and buying items on sale does not sound too bad.

However, there are a lot of other stuff that we have to buy, and a lot of those need to be bought today.

As such, we'll waste a lot of time if I am to queue with my sister.

There is no choice but to act separately from my sister and quickly buy the required items.

"Hmm.....? Split up with Onii-chan?"

After telling her my plan, my sister showed an expression of absolute despair,

"On the rare occasion that I am shopping with Onii-chan, why do we have to split up? W-Why is

such an illogical thing happening..... There can be places where the stocks are decreasing rapidly due to the sales. Although sticking with Onii-chan is the natural thing to do, but to give up on the sales - it is just such a waste..... But I still want to be together with Onii-chan..... Ah, ah, ahhhh, uhhh, wh-what should I do? What should I do? Can't I have my cake and eat it too? I-I-Is there no other way-"

She looked really pitiful.

Looks like she really liked the sales.

"Akiko."

"Uhh, yes?"

"I have a mission for you. A very important mission which you can't decline."

"Important mission.....?"

"From this very moment, you are to split up with me. You are to try your very best to get as many items on sale as you can and contribute to our family budget."

"!"

"I'll give you the funds, and you are to complete your mission with these funds..... You do know right, Akiko? This mission is not just for you, but for me as well. I do understand that it is very difficult for you to be separated from me..... But I do wish that you can use your intelligence and power to complete this mission outstandingly."

With a *swash*, I handed her the cash encouragingly.

"You understand? I'll say it again, this is for me. You cannot decline it, okay?"

I felt slightly relieved after seeing my sister accepting the cash with a dazed look.

"I have to split up with Onii-chan..... but as such, I can get all the items on sale..... and thus I can help Onii-chan....."

Her eyes finally showed signs of understanding.

"I understood, Onii-chan. Akiko will try her best. I will go all out to secure the items on sale and reduce the burden of the family, all for Onii-chan's sake."

"That's the spirit. We are to meet at the central square after we are done, alright? Well, let us get going."

"Here I go! Yahoo!"

What's with the 'yahoo'?

She looked happy.

With a wry smile, I see her off as she ran away from me as though her shoes grew wings.

Whatever. Up till now, I have done nothing that a brother should be doing.

If that's how much she wanted to be pampered, then I'll just let it be.

*

Well then.

It's about time for me to complete my task as well.

Even though I am not at the level of my sister, I am still not too used to shopping like this. The funds are limited as well, so I'll have to be more attentive.

Taking out my notebook again to confirm the list.

Starting to search for the signs.

..... Hmm.

Come to think of it, this store is really huge.

It feels like it is many times larger than the Tokyo Dome. It is separated into east wing, west wing and the middle spine..... The furnitures are located on the third floor, while the daily necessities are on the second? While the place needs to be large to be able to hold more items, it's still a little too inconvenient.

Forget it.

I'll approach it systematically one at a time.

Hmm, where are the lifts-

(.....Eh?)

I stopped walking just after a few steps.

At the middle of the central square where I had planned to meet up with my sister later.

Typically speaking, that place should be filled with passersby, and yet there is an area of space without anyone. What is happening?

It seems like the passersby were all looking at that place with their eyes wide opened. Is there some events going on..... it couldn't be. It doesn't seem like there is some sort of argument happening there either.

As the place was on my way to the lift, I walked towards that direction naturally.

And finally I managed to see that space from amongst the crowds.

"Whoa!"

I exclaimed.

The person over there. She is incredibly beautiful, to the point where she attracts attention.

She is a girl.

Her age is probably somewhere around mine.

However, she looks slightly more mature than me.

And she has golden hair.

Her hair is long, soft, honey-golden colored and slightly wavy. She tied them in twintails, and the length reached her shoulders. She was just standing there doing nothing.

(A life-sized model?)

This thought flashed past my mind quickly, but she does look like a real human being. If such an item can be made, then human beings would have surpassed god already.

She's standing there silently - or should I say, she is emitting a cold aura around her..... no, both are wrong. I should say that she is just putting on an emotionless expression. But even though she was putting on a cold expression, it does not seem to decrease her beauty at all. That's really impressive. She must be the so called 'ice beauty'.

Such a creature actually exist in this world.

Well, I guess it's true that anyone would be attracted by her beauty if she was to stand at such an eye-catching place. I also understand that at the same time, they cannot get close to her.

Come to think of it, my sister's surroundings is just like this. For today, it seems like this store has a certain ability that allows one to have a higher chance of seeing beauties whose looks are off the charts.

But oh well.

It is indeed a shocking encounter, but it is just that. I better get on with buying the items. Even though we are living like this, there are still a lot of stuff that I have to buy-

Oi oi.

Just when I felt that the surrounding atmosphere was changing.

That human-sized model actually began to make her way closer.

Or rather, she is walking in my direction..... Eh? Me? I was being stared at thoroughly - just when I was thinking of that, she had already came up in front of me,

"You."

She stood in front of me.

Her face was still cold and expressionless. She said,

"Yours?"

"Eh?"

"What's yours? Your name."

The standard blue eyes and golden hair. She looks slightly different from a pure caucasian. It feels like her facial shape was slightly Japanese.

Her height is probably the average of my sister's and mine..... Urm, now is not the time to be analyzing such stuff calmly.

"My name?"

"Yes."

As she said so, she stared at me intensively. Just like that, directly and without any expression.

..... What the heck?

This is a really weird feeling.

From my words. it may seemed like she was talking to me in a haughty manner and expression, but that is definitely not the case. It's something like, 'I knew she is this type of person' - that sort of feeling.

With a slight hesitation, I said.

"My name is Akito."

"Akito? That should be your first name. Your surname?"

"Urm, Himenokouji."

"-Is that so?"

With that, she returned to staring at me.

"Looks like I have gotten it wrong. So a woman's sixth sense can be wrong occasionally."

"Woman's sixth sense?"

Sounds like a line I had heard somewhere before.

"So, what's next? What is your reason for calling me?"

"Nothing much. It's just that I smelt a hateful smell coming off from your body."

"Eh? Me?"

"Yes, you."

"....."

I've heard something crazy here.

Is it really that strong? I do actually bathe everyday, and I never had any body odor before..... Ah!? Could it be the dinner I ate yesterday!? My sister's cooking is delicious, but she loves to add garlic into her dishes while saying, "Please eat more so that you can replenish your energy! Fufufu!" and such stuff. Even though I was already very careful, it looks like I have to be even more careful in the future.....

"It is not the smell of garlic."

However, she shook her head.

"Truthfully speaking, it is a smell that only I will hate. A typical person will not even care about it, so it has nothing to do with your diet. Please do not take it to heart."

"Urm, I am actually more concerned about it after hearing that....."

It's natural to be concerned if someone is to come up to you and say "you smell" on the very first time they met you.

"And so it is. I am sorry. You will indeed be concerned about it if you hear something like that. I'll treat you to some food as an apology."

"Eh? Urm, it's okay, you can just forget about it."

Though my time was unexpectedly taken up by this, I am actually not as free as it seemed.

It is worrying for me to let my sister go unattended for too long, so I should quickly buy the stuff and meet her-

"To be honest, it feels really awkward standing here."

She said.

"I am attracting too much attention from others, and I had nothing to do around here. Even though you are rejecting my treat, I will be really grateful if you can accompany me for a while. You are here shopping, right? If it is okay with you, please allow me to follow you."

"..... Wait. This is the first time you and I met, right?"

"That's right. But strangely, it does not really feel that way for me."

"Well, can't you just leave the store if you feel awkward staying here?"

"That has its own awkwardness too."

"......?"

Looks like she's a golden-haired beauty that is hard to handle.

Hmm. What should I do?

Having said that, due to the fact that I am hanging about with someone as conspicuous as her, I was attracting some attention as well. There is nothing as uncomfortable as this feeling. Even so, it doesn't seem good to chase her away just like that.

"I understand. First, let's leave this place for now."

And so it became like this.

We walked towards the second floor where they sell daily necessities.

I don't know if I should be surprised about this, but her problematic and unexceptional ability to grab attention of others had been toned down by quite a bit when she is around with me. Not long after leaving the place, it felt like there were not much stares from the surrounding. This is probably similar to the alleviating effect of adding sugar into an overly spicy dish.

"It's really unimaginable."

Looks like she is actually sharing the same thoughts,

"A majority of those uncomfortable feeling had went away, just by being with you. Perhaps it's because of you, who is so ordinary that you have little to no presence, that acts as a really good buffer. I will have to thank you for that."

"....."

What is this?

I was clearly being thanked by her, and yet, what is this dark feeling that is boiling inside of me?

"Look,"

As I looked for wire extensions,

"What exactly are you here for? You should be here to buy things, no?"

"I am not here to do that."

"Then why are you here?"

"You will be shocked if you hear it."

"Eh? That made me even more curious. So?"

"For no reason."

"....."

Instead of being shocked, it's more like I am stunned.

If it is really as she says, then she came all the way here for no reason. As a result, she gathered unwanted attention which made her felt at lost on what to do - isn't it a little bit out of this world?

Upon closer look, the clothes which she is wearing.

Even though it is just a simple combination of a red coat over a white high-collared dress, they do looked to be made of exceptional quality.

They are probably not something you can buy in the market, but custom-made. I did live with the Takanomiya family for a while, and so I know some of my stuff. Aside from being rich, you must be of certain status before you can get such clothing.

Truthfully speaking, it totally stands out against this store which is more for the common folks.

Really, what is she here for?

"There is something I'd like to know."

"Eh? What?"

"Are you a virgin?"

"..... Ha?"

"I said 'virgin', or in American it's *cherry-boy*. It's not 'route'." [TLNote: Wordplay, apparently both sounds similar in Japanese. Route here refers to paths. Probably something to do with the 道 kanji of the route vs 童貞 of virgin]

"..... Ahhh. So it is not 'route' huh."

"So, are you a virgin?"

"..... You are not asking me about route, right?"
"Right."

"..... Why did you think of asking that?"

"I cannot ask that?"

"Urm, typically speaking, no. If you really want to ask that, shouldn't you wait until we are on better terms with each other?"

"Incidentally, I am a virgin."

"Oi! I never ask you that, okay!?"

"Right at then. You have already knew a rather personal secret of mine, so you should tell me yours already."

What sort of person is she?

We've just met for the first time, and she forcefully shared her own private details with me.

"..... Do you know what is 'the right to remain silent'?"

"Mmm, of course. Are you going to use it?"

"I will if necessary."

"However, I think you definitely will not use it."

"Why?"

"It is just a feeling of mine."

Her gut feelings huh.

Even so, I still felt slightly frustrated.

If you are to ask me why, it is because she got it right.

Since I am the only one between us who knew some private details of hers, it feels really awkward if I do not tell her something in return. Even if she forced that detail onto me.

Ah- I have had enough-

There is no choice.

Come to think of it, she was setting the pace ever since we met.

"..... Ah"

"Eh? Sorry, that's not really clear. Can you repeat it?"

"-a virgin."

"How can I hear you if you are mumbling to yourself with your head lowered? Do you really have any intention of talking to me?"

"A virgin! I am a virgin! Stop asking me to repeat it so many times!"
"Eh? Sorry, I still cannot hear you. Can you say it again?"

"Damn, you are fooling with me aren't you!? I should've said it clearly just now!"

"Yes, so you did. With such a loud voice that the people around you are actually looking at you. Looking at the person who is announcing to the public that he is a virgin."

"Urggggg....."

"So I see. With your blushing face and your slightly trembling body, you are cute beyond words. Honestly speaking, that is just my fetish."

"Oi!"

What the hell is this woman saying!

A horny girl?

Could she be a horny girl?

"Stop showing that expression. It's just a joke."

"R-Really? So it is a joke. Well, I guess no matter what-"

"Even so, I am the same as an Amanojyaku. My so called 'jokes' are actually the real truth."
[TLNote: God damn it Anna, stop making it so hard. Amanojyaku. 天邪鬼 - あまのじゃく, a sort of Japanese demon that loves to lie.]

"..... I, can I leave?"

"Sorry, that is just a joke. It really is a joke this time."

"That's great then....."

Then again.

The so called Amanojyaku - isn't the current day term for it tsundere?

Or should I say that it is the modern day replacement for the term Amanojyaku.

Forget it, anything is fine. Am I slightly shaken already?

"Well, the thing about Amanojyaku is a lie. I am much more honest in actual fact."

"So what exactly is it....."

"Ah sorry. I have no idea why, but I feel like retorting to each and every statement of yours. It's a wonder."

"That is what I should be saying, alright!?"

"Back on topic. You do really have taste."

"What the, why are you talking about that again? Are you just simple or do you have something against me?"

"No you are mistaken. I did say it just now, I've no idea why but I just have an impulse to retort against you, to bite you, and to eat you whenever I am seeing you."

"In any case, I wouldn't want that. Also, you are the one who wished for my accompaniment, right? I don't think you will be struck by lightning if you show some appreciation towards me, you know?"

"Right. That makes sense. How mysterious."

With that said, she lifted her head slightly.

She is still wearing that expressionless expression.

What makes it scary is that she had been using that expression to say all those stuff she had said a while ago.

"To tell the truth."

While looking at me who was selecting the wire extensions,

"This is my first time coming to such a place. While I would usually have a bodyguard around me, I am totally alone for today. Just like a lost lamb, I am trembling in fear and not knowing what to do- and then you appeared. You are just like a savior."

"..... The person doesn't exactly have to be me, right? There were many other people there besides me."

"You are right, there were."

"And truthfully speaking, I don't really have much of a presence."

"That is true. That makes sense."

"..... About this, can't you just make it sound a little better? You teased me about that not too long ago, right?"

"But you"

As she said so, she looked towards me.

Those blue eyes of hers are crystal clear, without any hint of evil in them.

I don't really know what to do if I am being looked at by this way.

"Even though you are ordinary and not eye-catching, but I do think you have your own charm."

"....."

Ah-.

Really, how should I be reacting right now?

To be told directly like this, as though she had seen through my feelings. You just feel really good, even though you knew she said it out of courtesy.

"Well, it is just to butter you."

"So that is not even said out of courtesy?!?"

"If I were to praise you a little, the Mr. Nice Guy will definitely not leave me alone, right?"

"..... Urm, even though that may have been the case..... Even if that is the truth, it is much better if you kept that to yourself....."

"I may not look like it, but I am pretty good at judging people."

With that said, she simply changed the topic.

"Good at both studies and sports, trusted by her seniors, and admired by her juniors."

"Mhmm?"

"Together with a sharp nose, luscious thin lips, and a beautiful gaze. BWH measurements exceeds the average, and tall too. As for the family background..... there's nothing to nitpick about, aside from some slightly cumbersome details."

"About that..... What are you talking about?"

"I am just doing a self introduction, that's all."

"Oh."

"Sorry. If I made you felt uncomfortable, I will apologize. However, I-"

With that said.

She stared at me blankly again.

"I just want to be on good terms with you."

"..... If that is the case, there many other ways to do so."

"So there is. That is so true."

As she said that, she looked aside and mumbled, "How unbelievable."

I feel that your existence is much more unbelievable than that.

"It is about time I go."

"Eh?"

"I am really grateful for your company. See you again."

With those words, she turned and left without even waiting for my reply.

With a flick of her coat, she walked away sassily - just like a swallow who can't wait for spring to come and began to return back from across the shores.

She is a person that makes me think, 'a beauty is not complete with just her looks' and et cetera.

I think she said 'see you again' just now. Come to think of it, I haven't even asked her for her name.

Well, she was the one who came up to me suddenly and asked for my name.

And said that I had some weird smell on my body.

She is a mysterious girl through and through, right from the beginning till the end. What's even more inconceivable is the fact that I don't really dislike her.

Saying whatever she wants to say, and taking me for a spin, and yet I don't dislike it. That is the strangest thing about that golden-haired beauty.

..... Uhhh, now is not the time to be thinking about such stuff. I've bought absolutely nothing. If I continue on like this, I'll not make it in time to meet with my sis-

"Onii-chan!"

"Whoa!?"

I was called out suddenly. Turning my head, I saw the familiar smiling face of my sister.

"What's wrong, Onii-chan? Did you get everything already?"

"Urm, yeah. What about Akiko?"

"I've successfully bought everything on my part. There, please have a look!"

With that said, she showed to me the her loot.

Aside from the mandarin oranges and the detergent, there were also coarse sugar, soy sauce, rubbish bags, towers and et cetera, all lumped together in the trolley.

There are definitely some things in there that are supposed to be bought by me.

Well, it looks like she actually knew how to use a trolley, even though I had not taught her before. Seems like my sister's adaptability is way higher than what I had in mind.

"Even so..... Don't you think you had bought a little too much? Did I give you that much cash?"

"No problem. Or should I say, there is nothing here which I paid for."

"Eh? Then are all those items given to you as gifts?"

"That's right. They began to give me all sorts of stuff for some unknown reason as I was talking to the salespersons. Everyone there is a nice person."

What?

She had actually mastered the technique of taking advantage of others?

I had always thought she was weak, since she had lived a life that did not require her to step out of the house.

Having said that-

"Akiko."

"Hmm?"

"It's surprising that you can actually find me."

"I am still able to work out simple stuff like these, you know? Even though this store is big, but I had already remembered all the things that Onii-chan is supposed to buy. Since I have finished my shopping rather quickly, I decided to take a stroll along the sales area, and I met Onii-chan while doing so. That's all?"

..... Uhh.

She is really capable, isn't she?

Yeah, talking about 'growing up as a capable person' - I had repeated it many times, but my sister did time and time again proved me just that.

Could it be that my evaluation of my sister was too low?

"So, Onii-chan. Are there a lot of things that you had not bought yet?"

"Eh? Oh..... Actually, I had not bought a single item yet."

"Not even a single one? But it has been so long."

"Hmm. How should I put it?"

"Fufu. Just as I thought, Onii-chan can't live without my assistance. Let's go. I'll help you with the selection as well. Let's hurry up and purchase everything."

Sigh.

What is this?

I am treated like a kid by my younger sister.

With that said, she was looking at me really gently, so much so that my heart hurts.....

"No no, Onii-chan. Please do not mind."

Akiko gave a smile.

"Even though it's a little... that... to say it myself. However, despite how I look, I am actually really capable, you know? I am the secretary of the student council, and is well trusted by my seniors and admired by my juniors."

"Mhmm."

It seems like I had heard that line from somewhere.

"Really? Even when you were separated from me, Akiko is still a good child."

"That is right. That is because I am a sister that Onii-chan can be proud of."

Right.

That is something I agree totally.

"Good girl. Akiko is really impressive."

"Ehehe. Please praise me a bit more."

"Mhmm. You are really really impressive."

"Ehehe. Please pat my head as well."

"I don't remember patting on your head before?"

"Che, busted. To think I actually wanted to use this opportunity to do all sorts of things."

"Stop saying those stupid things, we should get going. We had spent more time than expected."

"Okay, let's go. -But Onii-chan."

My sister was frowning,

"I have noticed it for a while."

"Eh? What?"

"Why is there a nasty smell?"

"Eh?"

"It's a certain smell that puts me in a bad mood. Onii-chan's body had been emitting that smell non-stop. What is this..... It's really hard to put up with this."

rattles

My sister is a person who proudly claims she has a brother-complex and fears nothing. I am emitting a smell that actually makes her feel intolerable? Coming from my body?

"What is actually going on here? I had an impression of it, but I can't remember the smell..... Or rather, my brain refuses to remember....."

"I-Is it that bad? The smell on my body."

"Yes. It is really bad. If this goes on you will tarnish on the name of Himenokouji beyond repair."

"I-Is it really that bad? Is it that serious?"

"Yes. It is certainly not a smell that you should be giving off in public. The situation is really dire right now. We have no choice but to solve it quickly."

"W-What should I do!?"

"Yes. There is only one way."

"And that is!?"

"Will you do anything, no matter what?"

"Yes!"

"A man will not take back his words?"

"Yes!"

"Then I'll say it."

She cleared her throat.

"Hug me right now. If you do that, the irritating smell on Onii-chan's body will be cleared in an instant, and instead be replaced by the smell of your cute younger sister. That smell beats any smell you can get from perfumes."

"Well, I should quickly buy all the stuff so that I can head home for a bath."

"Ehhhh!? Onii-chan, wait! If you just want to take a bath, why don't the two of us do it together intimately-"

Even though my unworthy sister was saying something, I didn't hear it as the wind was too strong.

Well then. I better begin with my shopping, which had been delayed time and time again. After that, I shall head home and heal my body, which was worn out by the various things that happened today.

[Onii-Ai v1] Chapter 5: 31st March (The seventh day of living together)

"Ahaha. So that's what happened. That's really too much."

My friend, Sawatari Ginbe Haruomi, laughed after listening to my story.

"To think that you were actually told by two separate girls twice within a day. What's wrong Akito? Could it be that you don't even have the time to take a bath due to the house moving?"

"Don't get the wrong idea. I do bath properly."

"I know that. You are the sort of guy who will only maintain the moderate and minimum amount of cleanliness as required. I think you've struck a very good balance between the two. Also, I don't think your body odor has exceed that of a typical person."

Che.

Even if you say that, it's obvious that you are taking a jab at me.

"But isn't she a very interesting person, that golden haired girl whose name you do not know. It would be great if I was around as well."

"Hmph. I wished that was the case as well."

"Hey, don't be so angry. Even if we are a small island country, this place is big enough as it is. The distance between Tokyo and Kyoto are large enough for us not to be able to travel between the two places as we please - also, you have no intention of inviting me over to your house for a visit, right?"

"Don't be too anxious. Even without you urging me, I'll still invite you over when the time is right."

"Well, that's great to hear. But Akito, I wish to visit your house at this very moment."

"Why?"

"Because I feel that it is currently the most dangerous period."

"Dangerous period... referring to?"

"The dangerous period where you siblings may step over that taboo line."

"....."

A moment of silence.

"..... Oi oi Gin. Ginbe-san. Aren't you worrying too much? Me and my sister? Ha, that's impossible."

"Akito, what's so cute about you is the fact that despite you knowing it to be true, you will still put up a front. You use that joking tone to of yours precisely because you know that is possible, right?"

"Uh....."

"It's a definite fact that your sister is treating you as a member of the opposite sex. That is because her attempts at getting close to you are overly direct and enthusiastic. Just like a runaway car that is accelerating without reservations."

I totally agree with that.

"However, she had never forgot the existence of the brakes despite that. She still can step on the brakes and control herself if necessary."

"Control herself? Even though she acted like that?"

"She can do it. I had said it a few days ago, your sister would have pushed you down long ago should she have the intention to do so. But the reason she didn't is because she respects your wishes more than anyone else, right?"

"....."

"Well, I don't really have any idea of how much self-control she has. I think your sister is a good girl who knows her limit. As such I am not worried at all."

"She is a good girl - I'll give you that. But don't you think we need to discuss more about the worrying part?"

"No no. We really have nothing to worry about if it's your sister. The person who needs to be discussed on is you, Akito, right?"

"Oi oi. Are you saying I'll make a move on Akiko? Who is my blood-related twin younger-sister?"

"Well I do view you favorably."

My friend evaded my question with that line.

"At first glance, you are indeed an ordinary person. You looks are just ordinary, and your grades hover about the average range. The teachers must have a headache while writing comments about you. On a grade of one to five, you are right on three. Not too active in your extra-curricular activities, and to tell the truth, no one really noticed you in class either. You are exactly the mold of an ordinary person."

"Well are you done talking about it? Forget it, they are the truth."

"However, the value of a person cannot be determined by those things alone. Truthfully speaking, there was a period of time when I looked down on you..... but after this incident, I have no choice by to change that line of thought."

"Aren't you exaggerating things?"

"I was shocked when you said you are transferring schools. That's totally out of the blue. Come to think of it, I wasn't even aware that you have a sister. You must have decided a long time ago that you will one day live with her again. And in these six years, you've done all sorts of things to prepare for your goal. All by yourself, without letting anyone know. As such you have to completely hide the existence of your sister. Well, that is a correct move. It is the basics to keep

your plans secret before you act on it."

"That's why I am saying, you are exaggerating things."

"Well I have no idea how you came up with your plan and put it into action. However it is not hard to think of it as something extremely secretive, and at the same time, boring and repetitive underground work. You trusted no one, begged no one and told no one about it. You've beautifully completed your plan by yourself from start to finish. That's a job well done."

"I've done nothing amazing. It's just doing something that anyone could come up with and do it."

"It may seemed like something that can be achieved by anyone, but do you really think everyone can do it?"

"Urm, well....."

"Even more so, your opponents are actually the Arisugawa family and the Takanomiya family. It's about time you admit it. You've accomplished an extremely difficult job, and that is an undeniable truth. If not, then wouldn't me, who had listed all your feats, look like a huge joke?"

"....."

I've no idea if it was because of my embarrassment or something, but I sank into silence. I scratched my cheeks a little, but that will not return my blushing cheeks back to normal.

A laughter. It was as though my friend had noticed how I felt.

"And so I do understand the feelings of your sister. Her brother is someone who had accomplished such a feat. Anyone will be attracted to that no matter who they are. Even if they are blood-related twins."

"In any case, I've understood something."

"What?"

"It feels really uncomfortable to be constantly praised by someone"

"Ahaha, just give up. Isn't there a so called 'popular tax' - if you've done something great, you must be prepared for the praises as well?"

"You have to pay taxes when you are praised? Who will pay that?"

"Well then. What I want to ask is this."

Ginbe laughed while changing the topic.

"Your motive for doing such a huge thing. One reason is that your love for your sister is at its maximum."

"Well, I guess. That girl is my most precious sister."

"To tell the truth Akito, I am thinking - are you just like your sister and view her as someone of the opposite sex as well?"

"Well I'll just say the truth then Ginbe. I'll tell you right now that you are thinking too much. That sort of thing is impossible."

"Is that really so?"

"Well, I don't understand, am I really that untrustworthy? That really is not something that you will think about."

"Well, if it is like you had said, that will be great."

"Come to think of it, how you can actually say all those stuff with confidence with that little proof you have? What else are you basing your talk on?"

"Isn't that obvious? Intuition."

"Oi oi."

Why did it felt like I've been hearing such stuff recently?

"The talk about your motivations are just points to emphasize my intuition. My intuition are actually rather accurate when it comes to bad things, so I am quite worried. I don't know if you have done inhuman acts that violates human laws."

"..... Gin."

"What?"

"Could it be that you are angry?"

"Ahaha, isn't that obvious? You are asking that question when things have already came down to this?"

My friend gave a loud laugh.

"At the very least, I've treated you as a friend. I thought that we share deep ties with each other. Even if you can't help it, you still actually left without saying anything to me. That's cold and something very regrettable. Could it be that I just that sort of person to you? You know, I can't help but wish to dig out your innards, to cook and eat them."

"..... Urm. Sorry. I sincerely apologize for that."

"It's nothing. I've said it just now, I know that you are not hiding it from me on purpose. However, being angry at you and forgiving you are two separate matters. Even though I am still angry at you, I've already forgiven you."

"Is that so? Well, I am really grateful for your words."

"Even though I had said lots of excessive stuff, do not put it to heart. It's like you said, I am overwhelmed by my anger and am thus saying all sorts of rubbish at you. However, please then forgive me for these outbursts of mine if you see me as a friend."

"Well, it will be great if your outbursts remained as that..... but is that okay? To be truthful, I am already prepared to be punched by you."

"I'll not go for such an inefficient revenge, so don't you worry. Also, my anger can't be appeased by just that."

The person said it with a light laugh.

"To tell the truth, I had already found another opportunity to officially take my revenge on you,

so there's no need for you to worry."

"..... Oi oi. You are not holding back at all."

"I wish to return back to you the mental damage you've inflicted on me, multiplied by many folds. Well, prepare yourself for it."

"What the... Isn't this a little too much? It's not like I hid it from you because I liked it. It's the two families that we are talking about, so I have to carry out my plans in extreme secrecy..... Since you had said that you are my friend, couldn't you be a little more understanding? You know, didn't you say that you have already forgiven me for my wrongdoings? Being angry at me and forgiving me are two separate matters, that's what you had said, right?"

"Whether I am angry at you and whether I want to have my revenge on you are two separate matters as well."

"Is that so? Are you confusing me with those eloquent speeches that you are so good at?"

"Stop trying to talk me out of it. You are the one who's trying to confuse me first, no? .....Well, there's no need for your voice to sound so troubled. Even though I am calling it as revenge, it's more like a prank done by kids. Just wait for it in a relaxed mood while you relive the old days with your sister again."

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"Che. God damn it, Gin."

I hung up the phone and mumbled to myself.

Don't worry, you say. It makes me even more conscious of it if you put it that way, no?

Hold on. Could the actual aim of that person be to make me worry about it? It felt like that could be just the case. That person may actually be laughing while imagining me being all flustered over it. Even though that person is straightforward, Ginbe enjoys making fun of me the most.

However,that person was the first one to help me (that list of items and so on) when the mess was exposed. I was wondering why Ginbe was not angry at all.

It looks impossible now. Ginbe's indeed angry.

That person was probably waiting for everything to settle down before releasing all the anger at me. Is that it? Even though I have to thank that person for knowing the right time and place to flare up..... Well, I should find some time to appease Ginbe a little. I'll bring along the cake that Ginbe loves the most.

And with that, we are about to enter the second half of spring holidays. Even though the cherry blossoms are gradually blooming, there's still a while to go before it is time to enjoy their beauty.

It's the first time I left everyone to live an independent life..... and I realized that housework is a rather tedious activity.

Sweeping, cooking, cleaning, and etc. The things to do are uncountable.

Things that need to be done kept piling up.

Though one of the reasons is that I am not too accustomed to doing these things. But even after factoring that in, there is just too much things to do.

Thankfully, I've prepared a lot of things before moving into here. I had a strong premonition back then that I cannot leave things for later.

Well whatver. Sighing does nothing, so it's better to start clearing up the things I see before me.

Uh, there's another thing to be done.

Spring cleaning can be considered as completed. Today is my sister's turn to cook, so I'll set this aside as well. Since my sister is better than me in terms of cooking, I'll be more of a trouble instead.

As such, all that is left is the washing of clothes.

Speaking of which, there is typically no chance for me to do it as my sister is always rushing to do that. I'll keep the clothes before my sister return - or so I thought, but I can't keep the clothes either since they are still wet.

Incidentally, my sister is out as she had some student council work to do.

This is the first time she went out alone since we got back together. She was saying things like "How can I leave Onii-chan alone! Wouldn't that be too lonely!? Mainly for me!", and she even cried before leaving the house-

Just then.

Ding dong

The doorbell rang.

..... Who can it be?

Even Ginbe has not came here before, so it cannot be my friends. It was even more impossible to be my relatives.

If that is the case, could it be someone living nearby? Or perhaps a door-to-door salesman.....?

"Coming, coming. I am opening the door now."

Finally.

When I pulled aside the Shouwa style glass door with cloud prints, the person standing before me is.....

"Yo. This is the house of Arisugawa, right?"

"..... What?"

"Ahh. She's called Himenokouji now. I'm sorry."

"..... Ah- right."

How should go about saying this?

In any case, let's start by pointing out the features of her appearances. One at a time.

First, red hair.

Red hair that is like ruby, tied naturally into a ponytail.

And then the eye-patch.

It's simple and pure black, just like One-Eyed Dragon Masamune's eye-patch. It covered her right eye.

Finally, the Japanese blade.

It is rather simple as well. A weapon that can be called as an Ootachi, and held easily by her left hand.

"Ahh this?"

That person lifted the sword and said,

"Don't worry. It's a bamboo blade."

"-Ah, so it's a fake. Well that makes sense. How can it be possible for someone to walk in modern Japan while carrying something that is obviously violating the weapons law? If that is a bamboo blade, then I guess you can consider it to be safe."

"Well although it is a real blade that is named 'bamboo blade'."

"Hey that thing is totally out, okay!?"

"Ka ka ka. Don't worry too much."

That person puffed her chest and laughed loudly,

"Even for me, I will not casually pull the sword out while on the street."

"No, although you are not wrong....."

"At the very least, I'll only pull it out in special situations - like when I want to trim my nails."

"Not only is that casual, it's also rude to the blade, no!?"

"Ka ka ka. You are really good with your tsukomis. I like you."

Oh.

This should actually be the very first characteristic I list.

She is wearing a uniform.

Wearing a uniform that incorporates classic and modern designs at the same time.

Of course, it is a uniform that I am used to seeing.

That is because I am seeing my sister in her uniform everyday.

"Name's Nikaido, Arashi. St. Ririana Academy's third year student and president of the student council. In other words, I am your sister's superior. Nice to meet you, Himenokouji Akito."

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"You are not quite like your sister."

She said while sitting down with one of her legs propped up and her sword by her waist.

That's the very first sentence from someone who claimed herself to be a student council's president.

"You look really ordinary, and as far as I know, there are room for improvements in your studies. Are you those people who has his nutrients taken away by his sister?"

"Well, I can't deny that. But to be saying this during our very first encounter is a little....."

We talked across the short table.

"Don't worry. I am not belittling you. It's my personality to be straight-forward."

"Even towards someone whom you are meeting for the very first time?"

"Well obviously that doesn't apply to everyone. However, you are Arisugawa... Himenokouji Akiko's elder brother, and in my eyes that's akin to family. Don't you think that is much rudder to be overly respectful towards family members?"

"Ahh."

Well.

There's something that has been bothering me ever since the beginning.

"Well..... Nikaido-senpai, right?"

"Oh. What?"

"That. Can I ask about 'that'? Or should I remain silent?"

Eye-patch.

And the Japanese blade.

Typically speaking, the correct decision should be to 'ignore them despite seeing them'. However, since she is my sister's superior as well as the student council's president of the school that I am about to enroll in, there is no choice but to do that.

"Ka ka ka. So that's how it is."

Nikaido-senpai's laughing in a 'chi-chi' sound.

"That means that you are someone who is turned on by eye-patches and Japanese blade?"

"..... Huh?"

"I'm sorry. Even for me, this is the first time I know someone with such a weird fetish. If I knew this earlier, I would have been more careful..... I am really sorry for making you hard for nothing. Don't worry, the same incident will not happen next time."

"Please do not decide the sexual preferences of others on your own. How did you manage to come up with that conclusion base on our conversation just now?"

"No worries, I'll take responsibility for it. If you wish, there is no problem with me giving you this eye-patch and Japanese sword. You must have accumulated a lot, and is almost at the limit of your endurance right? It's not good for your body if you hold it back."

"Like I said, no. Please listen to me."

"Ka ka ka. It's just a joke."

The student council's president let out a loud laugh. Really, please stop those horrible jokes of yours. Even if you want to talk about perverted stuff, that's just going overboard.

..... Forget it.

It looks like it doesn't really matter.

I'll just treat it as her saying "it's better if we don't talk about it" in a roundabout way. As for me, not having to "pretend to not see it after seeing it" is just fine as it is - if I were to say, it is because there is another thing which I am more interested in as compared to the eye-patch and the Japanese sword.

"Urm, there's another thing."

"Oh? What thing?"

"Actually, there is something else that really bothers me."

"Mhmm?"

"To be honest, I don't think it's nice nice to point that out as well."

"No worries. Just like I had said, you are like family to me. Just say whatever you want to say like a man would."

"Aha, thanks. Then I'll do as you wish."

"Alright. Just shoot."

Clearing my throat, I directed my sight away and said,

"I saw everything. Right from the beginning.The contents in your skirt."

That's right.

I could see it extremely clearly. In full view.

The place that is not too convenient to talk about was covered by a slightly thick red-colored tight pants.

That is because this person was sitting fully exposed right in front of me. It's no longer just stealing a glance at it. It's at the stage where it is weird not to look.

"Ka ka ka. I see I see, you can see it huh. I guess so."

However.

The person named Nikaido gave a hearty laugh and said,

"No worries. I don't mind."

"Even if you don't mind it, I do. I have no idea where I should look at."

"Incidentally, today's panties are red."

"Is that so, I see. Even though I can see it, but it's not too easy to differentiate from mess of red. I was thinking to myself that no matter how deep the colors of the tight pants are, there should be no reason I can't spot the color of the panties. So that is how it is. If that is the reason, then the mystery is resolved quite easily. I was actually thinking if you are someone shameless enough to treat the tight pants as short leggings, and sp you are not wearing your panties- wait that is not what I wanted to talk about."

"That was just me saying rubbish. I am actually not wearing any panties today."

"Ah, I see. The reason you wear a dark colored tight pants was a deep strategy to conceal the fact that you are not wearing any panties today- what the hell? Isn't it worse? Stop spreading your legs like that!"

"Ka ka ka. Your reactions are really fun."

While saying that, she let out another hearty laughter.

How should I put it? This person laughs really heartily.

"That sort of reaction is a strength of yours that your sister does not possess. Treasure it."

"Aha. Is that so?"

"Yes it is. Having Arisu- oh, she's called Himenokouji now. But it doesn't really matter."

"Yeah."

"Anyway, that cute junior of mine is the secretary of the students' council. She's serious to the point where she is as stiff as dried shit - everything she does is in accordance the rulebooks. She is a capable person, but her brain is extremely stubborn. Even so, she actually has an extremely serious brother complex. I really don't understand her."

"Urm, well then,"

I finally remembered something when we talked about my sister.

"What's your reason for coming here today? I remember my sister went to school because she has something to do in the student council."

"Well of course. I'm the one who delegated her that task, that's why."

With that, she gave proud laugh.

..... What should I say?

Since she is a third year student, there shouldn't be much difference between us in terms of age. Should I say that she don't really act like a girl? It felt like I am talking to an adult.

That's right. Rather than a girl, it felt like she is a vagabond of the Bakumatsu era.

And she is probably one of those who will become the founding fathers of the Meiji era in the

future.

If you continue with that train of thought, the way her beautiful ponytail is tied up like a sort of bun.

"Well..... if I am not wrong."

"Yes? Speak your mind."

"From what Nikaido-senpai had just said, it sounds like you gave my sister some jobs to chase her away, so that you can talk with me alone."

"It is not 'sounds like', it really is. Himenokouji Akito, I want to talk to you alone. That's why I made your sister go away for a while."

"Haa. Talk to me, huh?"

"That's right. You."

I am feeling confused just by being face to face with the silently smiling Nikaido-senpai.

"Then, what exactly do you want to talk about with me?"

"Nothing much. It's nothing major."

With that, she propped up her leg again.

She's in the state of opening her gates again when she did that. I felt really bad, so I directed my sight away.

But whether I want it or not, her next sentence made me moved my line of sight back at her again.

"Hey, will you become my man?"

"..... Ha?"

"Will you become my man?"

"Ah, no. I can hear your words perfectly fine. There is no need to repeat the same lines."

"Oh,I'm sorry about that. So, your answer?"

"..... Look. Are you for real?"

"No. It's a joke."

"Well, that's assuring."

"10% of it."

"Which means that 90% of it is real. My uneasiness had shot way past the threshold when I heard that."

"Ka ka ka. That is a joke too."

"Oh man..... please do not scare me."

"The line, 'will you become my man?', it's a joke. You, will you become my secret lover?"

"That's exactly the same thing isn't it!?"

Or should I say that her view towards me had actually deproved instead.

"Ka ka ka. It's a joke, it's a joke. Your reactions are way too fun, which is why I can't help but tease you a little. Sorry."

"Please give me a break..... I am as easily frightened as how I looked."

"Well, please do not get angry. I'll welcome you anytime should you want to be my secret lover. I'll give you some really good memories."

"No thanks."

"Why are you so cold? It is slightly brazen to be saying this myself, but I am actually a good woman."

"In any case, nope."

"Also, as long as you start an intimate relationship with me,"

As Nikaido-senpai said that, she leaned forward.

As though she had always seen the depths of my heart.

"Wouldn't that totally erase the unhealthy scenario of two siblings being entangled in a messy relationship?"

"....."

It was at then when the sirens in my head started to ring.

Perhaps I was too careless.

It was clear from the few lines in our conversation. Just like my initial impression of her, this person is not ordinary.

She deliberately came to my house, and deliberately made up something to get my sister away. This was definitely no ordinary house visit.

"- I see."

After a moment of silence, Nikaido-senpai burbled that out.

She was still silently smiling, but that brief moment of dangerous feeling was gone.

"There was just that instance where the mood changed. It's thin and hardly noticable, but the sharpness is first grade - just like the feeling one gets when the famous blade is pulled out. Well my good man, I've finally understood why Akiko is so smitten towards you."

"Huh?"

What's with the 'good man'?

Well of course, I was happy after being praised.

But the person praising me was someone whom I had only met for an hour. She should not even know what sort of person I am.

"It looks like you do not understand."

With a chuckling laugh, she said,

"You. Do you know what is the criteria of a good woman?"

"Urm..... what?"

"She has to be able to recognize a good man when she sees one."

"Aha, so I see."

"And the methods used does not matter. It can be after a long period of knowing each other, it can be putting in effort to research on the guy, or it can be based on pure intuition. In any case, it's okay as long as the woman is not fooled by a fake and finds a real good man. That is the number one criteria of a good woman."

"Mhmm."

"Then there is another criteria. After discovering a good man, she must be able to capture him. It will not do if you don't know how to. It is meaningless if a woman finds a good man but is unable to get him into her hands. That is no different from fooling yourself."

"I see. So that's your logic."

"The foresight and the means - just having these two factors is enough to be a good woman. And for me, I am absolutely perfect at these two areas. To add on, I am a great beauty too."

"You will definitely be a better woman if you do not blow your own trumpet."

Whatever.

Ignoring the legitimacy of her words, she did sound slightly convincing. There's also the fact that Nikaido-senpai's personality is already clearly portrayed to me. However.

"And then? What does those words have to do with anything?"

"Even though you are a good man, you are still slightly dense."

"Sorry about that."

"To put it simply, there's a good woman - who is me - and the woman fancies you. Himenokouji Akito, you are a good man who is really outstanding. That has nothing to do with me seeing you for the first time. Anyone with a slightly sensitive nose will be able to pick up that scent - the smell of your worth of a man."

Even though we were separated by the short table, it did not feel that way - I had the illusion that our distance actually became much closer. What a inconceivable presence.

"You may possess a thin body on the outside, but you are actually very tenacious in the inside. You will definitely not give up once you have decided on something, but you can maintain a decent amount of flexibility when necessary. You are the worst person to be an enemy with, but as an ally you are are more trustworthy than anyone else - that's the type of person you are."

"Ah....."

"Be more confident and proud of yourself. You are an exceptional good man. I, Nikaido Arashi, can guarantee that. If you want, I can use this bamboo blade as a vouch."

"How weird. You had lost all your credibility when you bring out the name of that blade."

That's me. Both my mouth and soul are uptight.

She really knows how to interact with people. She was just saying all those out of courtesy, but if I was careless, I would have taken them as the truth. The way she evaluates a person is more like some sort of hero rather than a woman. I can understand why she is the president of the student council.....

Hmmm?

I've just noticed something.

"Urm."

"Yes?"

"Could it be that you are actually trying to induce me?"

"Ka ka ka. So you have finally realized it?"

Nikaido-senpai slapped her knees and let out a loud laugh.

"I am sorry. It's just that, you know, after meeting a good man..... However, I was not expecting you not to realize that I am trying to induce you. .....So how was it? Are you slightly moved? Are you willing to be my man?"

"I humbly decline."

"It's time to tell you the truth."

Her expression changed once again.

She was silently smiling, but at the same time she was giving out the same dangerous aura she did earlier.

"I've met up with the Arisugawas and Takanomiyas a few days ago."

"- !?"

"Hey. There's no need to raise your guard."

She fanned her hands and continued,

"They did not make anything concrete request to me. All they said was, 'please take care of them' in a rather rhetorical fashion. However, Arisugawa and Takanomiya are not muddleheads - they are not visiting me just so that they can say those words to me. I think you are rather clear on this as well."

"Yeah. Crystal."

If not, I would not have to be suffering this much.

"Well, you do not have to worry. I really do not have any motive. Just like I had said, it was nothing concrete. However, I do have some ties with both Arisugawa and Takanomiya. Even though I am not indebted to them, but I do have some sort of friendship with them."

"Which means to say that should the situation calls for it, you will be standing on their side as well. Is that what you are trying to say?"

"Well, it is best if things do not come down to that. That's how I feel."

"Same for me."

"Well, I don't think things will really boil down to that. I do like Akiko, and you are really pleasing to my eyes as well. Compared to that little friendship, you siblings are of higher priority to me.

However, such things are life - you will not know how things will turn out to be."

"I guess. No wait, it's precisely as you've said."

"However, it will be a different matter altogether should you become my sex slave. I won't give a damn about the friendship. I will just want to protect you."

"Screw this, now you are even bringing in the idea of sex slaves? Why is my value constantly dropping? To think you are actually praising my rather vigorously not too long ago."

"If you want, I am fine with me being your sex slave."

"Eh!?"

"Oh. So you are hooked. Are you interested in that?"

"No way!"

"Well, can I borrow your bath room to take a shower?"

"Please do not continue the topic as though I had accepted your proposal, alright!?"

"Ka ka ka. My my, you are a really humorous guy."

Nikaido-senpai slapped her knees and laughed heartily.

"Well, don't worry. The Arisugawa or Takanomiya family will not be taking any actions for now. So you siblings should relax and fill up the void caused by these six years of separation. As for me, I'll help you guys out as long as it is within my means."

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Just like that, the manly student council's president left.

And like her name suggests, she was like a violent storm. [TLNote: 嵐 (Arashi), Nikaido's name, means storm]

She appeared all of the sudden and wreaked havoc before vanishing into thin air.

If she is not a storm, then she must have been some sort of elusive villain.

Ahhh... she had left a really deep impression on me.

What's left was to interpret what she had said.

(Well, I guess I'll just have to take it as it is.)

That was what I thought.

I guess she is not one to lie.

She can probably come up with all sorts of lies if it is really needed from her, but just this once, that should not be the case.

She is not lying, and it also feels like she is not hiding anything from me. She does have a glib tongue, but it has not reached the point where it feels like she is a crafty person.

She was probably here to gain my trust - or in another words, she was selling her trustworthiness to me. That was probably her reason for the visit.

" You are the worst person to be an enemy with, but as an ally you are are more trustworthy than anyone else ."

It seems like that's how Nikaido-senpai had evaluated me.

Well, what a great way of putting it.

At the very least, I do not wish to be enemies with Nikaido-senpai. If there exist even the slightest possibility of being enemies with her, then I'll resort to anything to erase that possibility.

However.

If the situation turns into 'if you do not want to be enemies with me, then you are to become my sex slave', then please forget what I had said just now.

However, there are definitely many guys out there who will be hooked by that. Putting her personality aside, she has a figure that is on par with the models who appear at the branded fashion shows. I think those with a M personality will definitely roll themselves towards the bottom of her foot. [TLNote: M = masochist]

Ah- no. I am not talking about myself, alright? I am definitely not interested in that, okay?

Since my sister is not around today, I'll have to do the rest of the housework.

After clearing those chores, I'll have to start catching up to the curriculum at the new school. And after I am done with that, I'll have to resume the work which I had ignored for quite a while now.

This is not looking good.

The things to be done are piling up.

Hmm, where should I begin?

House-cleaning was basically done. If that is the case-

Oh.

The clothes that were washed should be dry by now.

"Ohhh. They are dry."

I went to the courtyard to take a look, and the perfectly dried clothes were swaying slightly in the gentle breeze.

This was the victory of the good weather which we rarely get during the later half of March. I thanked the sun for its grace.

I could not help but to feel happy. I began to collect the washed clothes one piece at a time while humming to a tune.

Well, I'll do my studies when I am done folding the clothes. There is not much time left till the school starts. I would have to clear this as efficiently as I could,

"Ahhhhhhhhhhh~!"

At then came a loud scream.

What? What? Are there cats in heat that are fighting?

As I was thinking of that, I turned my head,

"O-O-O, Onii-chan.....!"

Looks like my younger sister has just came back from school.

"Oi Akiko, what's with that voice of yours. It will be really embarrassing if the neighbors heard that. Please act like how a girl should."

"Wh-What are you doing?"

"What am I doing? Taking in the clothes?"

"Onii-chan, in that hand, the thing you are holding.....?"

"Eh? What else could it be? Isn't this your panties?"

"!"

Her face flushed red in an instant.

pa pa pa She walked towards me with huge steps.

She snatched away the pair of panties that I was holding in my hands, along with the rest of the clothes that I had collected.

She quickly moved three steps back.

She then tried to intimidate me with a "hiss!"

"..... Are you an animal? Calm down for a second."

"This is not the situation where I can remain calm!? M-M-M-My un-un-underwear was.....!"

"Ha? This would mean nothing to you in the past."

"Nothing of the sort!"

"You were clearly angry at me for not peeping at you while you are bathing. And you actually came to me with just a bath towel on your body."

"Surprise attacks like these are not allowed!"

"I'm not bothered by it though. It's my sister's underwear after all."

"Now I am angry due to a totally different reason, all thanks to that tone of yours!"

Really, what was she saying? I couldn't understand her.

How does her sense of shame works?

"..... Fuu- haa. Fuu- haa."

While I remained silent, my sister placed her hands on her chest and took in deep breaths.

After her peach colored face returned back to their original colors, she looked at me with a 'jiiiiiii',

"Even if you are the Onii-chan whom I loved a lot, I still cannot forgive you for such a boorish act!"

"..... What had I done to deserve that?"

"It's the underwear of a teenage girl? They belong to me, your cute younger sister! If you want to take this underwear to sniff it, I'll give it to you happily and naturally, just like how I will hand you a piece of cleaning cloth- Ahhh, I still cannot forgive you. Onii-chan's excessively overboard attitude has hurt my fragile heart deeply!"

"Calm down. If you ask a hundred people, I am sure a hundred will say that 'what you had said is just atrocious.'"

"This has nothing to do with the rest of the world! There are rules in the Himenokouji household! Onii-chan had obviously broken those rules!"

"Uhhh... Mm."

When did that rule exist? But I guess it is not a good time to be asking that.

I did not feel like I had done anything wrong, but I did realize that I had lacked some consideration about this after being told by her. Also, it did not seem like my sister will let things go just as it is.

"..... I get it, though I cannot really accept everything. But I understand. Indeed, there are still some etiquettes to follow despite how close we are. I am wrong to collect the clothes on my own accord."

"Are you reflecting on it?"

"Mhmm."

"Really?"

"Of course."

"I understand. Then I shall let you off the hook for today. In exchange-"

"Listen up Akiko."

"Yes?"

"The possibility of this happening is low, but you can't be thinking of saying things like 'please hug me' while taking advantage of all the confusion, right?"

"....."

"Akiko?"

"Onii-chan. Don't you think you have went a little overboard with that?"

"Eh?"

"I felt hurt to be misunderstood as that sort of person. It hurts way more than when I see you touching my panties without my permission. To request for something unreasonable while Onii-chan know he is wrong - how will I do such an unreasonable thing?"

"Hmm..... is that so? I am really sorry. It looks like I was thinking too much into it."

"Really, Onii-chan. Please take note of what you say in the future."

"Sorry, sorry."

"Really, there has to be a limit of you talking nonsense. All I want was for Onii-chan's lips to touch mine. Just a small request-"

"Akiko."

"Yes."

"That's really great. I'll have no choice but to end our brother-sister relationship if you request that from me."

"Uh- th-that..."

"Well, this topic shall end here, alright? Come, let's be on good terms again."

"W-Wait! This sort of opportunity does not come by often- no wait, I'll not accept it unless you fulfill my request and also apologize to me!"

"No way."

"If a kiss will not do, then please hug me instead!"

"So it has went back to that!"

"At the very least, pat my head!"

"No no."

"I-If that's the case, then, then-"

"Ahh. Akiko."

It looks like things will turn out to be like usual, so I had better change the topic.

"You had joined the students council right? You are the secretary, if I remember correctly?"

"Huh!? Please do not try to change the topic forcefully! Just today, no matter what, I will have to get my reward! If not, I'll be standing her all day and not move an inch! I'll not cook, clean the house, or do anything else!"

"Ah. Akiko is a really impressive child."

"Eh?"

"Joining the students council in order to serve the school. If that is not impressive enough, you actually had to go back on a holiday to clear the work of the student council. This is not something you can do easily. Oh, I do feel that you are really impressive."

"I-Is that so.....?"

"Yes it is. You are a capable child. A younger sister that I am proud of."

"Pl-Please praise me more."

"Akiko is really splendid. You are someone in this world who is unique and irreplaceable to me. The perfect younger sister."

"Ehehe..... It's g-great that you know that. Well then, shouldn't you give some reward to your cute little sister-"

"And because you are such an excellent younger sister, Akiko will definitely not do things that will trouble her elder brother, right?"

"Eh? Well, regarding that-"

"No, I should say that I am basking myself in the light of my sister. I can't thank god enough for such luck. Ahhhhh, I am really blessed."

"..... Urm, Onii-chan. With such a cute sister, shouldn't you be repaying her with some sort of reward?"

"Ahhh come to think of it."

Well.

I should change the subject here so that I can bury the topic. That should be a *mission complete* from me.

As for the next topic- ahh. I've got one.

"What sort of person is the student council's president like?"

"Eh?"

"The student council's president of St. Ririana Academy. She's your superior right? I was wondering what sort of person will the president be?"

"Keep this a secret from your sister, or else things will get messy" - as Nikaido-senpai had said that earlier, I'll kept her visit a secret for now.

"From my point of view, I am putting you in that person's care. As your elder brother, I wish to

understand more about that person immediately."

"So that is how it is. I see."

..... Is that just my illusion?

There was a sudden change in the use of words while my sister was nodding her head slightly. She had even straightened her back.

"The president is someone who deserves respect. She is good at winning people's hearts, and she knows how to use people well. Also, she is not just good at talking, but she is actually very capable as well, and is very dependable during emergency situations. She is easy-going and understanding, and thus have lots of friends. I feel that there is no one who is more suitable than her as a leader. It will not be exaggerating to say that she is born with the temperament of a hero."

Oh-.

It's really rare for my sister to say things like that.

"However, her sexual preferences could not be any more worse."

Ah.....

"Her sexual preferences are horrible - it does not matter if the opposite party is a guy or a girl."

So she is bisexual?

"Incidentally, her nickname is 'Predator'."

How can this be?

That's a huge contrast.

"Onii-chan. I'll just give you an advice while we are on the topic."

My sister suddenly pulled her face close to mine.

She lifted her index finger, and said in an extremely serious manner,

"It's better if you do not get close to Nikaido-kaichou... Nikaido-senpai."

"I-Is that so?"

"That is for the sake of Onii-chan."

"But she is someone who has taken care of you. Don't you think that I should at least pay her a visit?"

"You are absolutely right. But just this once, you should forgo it."

"But I will studying in the same school as you do starting this spring. How will I be able to avoid the president?"

"Even though I am well aware of that, but still I have to warn you again. Try not to get close to that person."

"U-Urm. Is she that dangerous?"

"Her nickname 'Predator' is not just for show. Naturally, talking to her is out of the question. If possible, avoid eye-contact as well, or you will get pregnant."

"Ehhhhhhh?"

"Regardless of your sex. She is that type of person."

"I-Is it that for real.....?"

"Yes. If she ever manage to see someone like Onii-chan some day, she will not hesitate to eat you up. Well, as long as I am around, I will definitely not let her do as she please..... In any case, I have the responsibility to protect Onii-chan's virginity. Please just listen to me and try not to come into contact with that person, alright?"

..... Forget it.

The fact that I had involved myself with the student council's president is something that cannot be undone.

And I had the feeling that this evil relationship can no longer be severed.

Silence is golden - for the situation I am in anyway.

"Ahhhh..... even though it is the ultimate bliss to be in the same school as Onii-chan. However, I am really really really uneasy about the fact that Onii-chan may get himself within a fifty-meter radius from the president..... Ahhh..... although there is someone whom I wish Onii-chan will never come into contact with, even more so than the president..... However, the actual dangers that person posed is still lesser than that from the president."

"Well, you do not have to worry too much, Akiko. I am no longer a kid. I can still at least defend myself even if the president tries doing anything to me."

"Naive! Onii-chan you are too naive! Onii-chan can only say that now because you have no idea how scary she is!"

"But..... it's unavoidable since we are in the same school, right?"

"Even so, but please be more conscious about the fact that the school has a scary predator, and Onii-chan is the poor prey! If someone like Onii-chan is to meet that person, he will definitely be 'awu', 'gabu', 'guru' in an instant!" [TLNote: Apparently, onomatopoeia for opening the mouth, biting and swallowing respectively]

"I understand, I get it. I'll be careful."

"..... Uhhhhh, I am really worried. Too worried. No matter how careful Onii-chan is, as long as that person get serious, Onii-chan will be like a rabbit being locked on by an eagle..... I don't care anymore. Instead of allowing that to happen, I should eat Onii-chan before that happens! The best solution is to allow me to enjoy you! Therefore, Onii-chan. For tonight, please-"

"You are the most dangerous predator to me, so please be aware of that!"

"Please do not say that! At the very least, allow me to sleep in the same bed as you!"

"No no. Alright, it is about time for you to prepare dinner. I still have to get myself accustomed to the school's curriculum."

"Please accommodate to my request! I just want our beds to be next to each other while we sleep!"

"Ah- that's right. I should start to clean the courtyard."

"Just the bed touching each other! Really, just touching each other! I swear I will not do anything else! I swear!"

"I had not been paying much attention to the courtyard ever since we moved in here. I should work on that before I start studying."

"O-Onii-chan is ignoring me! How mean! This is a serious case of domestic violence! If you continue to torture your cute sister like this, you will be brought to court some day!? Are you fine with that!?"

"Oi Akiko. Where is the broom? I didn't see it."

"..... sob sob..... Onii-chan you meanie."

I've noted down the above conversation in my brain.

Nikaido Arashi - she probably is on our side, but I must still be careful of her.

[Onii-Ai v1] Chapter 6: 3rd April (The tenth day of living together)

Well then.

Even though it is a bit... that... to say it at this moment, but from this summer onwards, I am in a situation where I have to attend the same school as my sister.

St Ririana Academy.

I was not too familiar with it as I was living in Kyoto for a while, but at here - at Tokyo, it is considered to be a rather famous school.

Just as the name suggest, it is a Christian school. All students studying here are from famous families, although that is something not too surprising. The interesting thing about this school is that the students are unlike those of typical schools for the rich, in the sense that they don't seem to be pampered.

Firstly, there is no such thing as an automatic promotion system.

Of course, as such, there will be a huge number of students who are forced to leave the school as they are 'not capable enough'. And because it is useless to use some under-table methods such as bribing the school, one cannot continue staying in the school just by using petty tricks.

But that's precisely the reason why the students are thoroughly developed.

Those who entered the school just due to its popularity will be quickly eliminated, and only those with true capabilities will survive. And among those students, many are from powerful families.

In another words, St Ririana Academy-

It is a elite school that filters out students using all sorts of methods. They will then thoroughly train and develop those who survived the filtering - that is how it is.

Well, I am about to be studying in that elite school, so to speak.

"Please do not show such a stiff expression, Onii-chan."

While stopping in front of the imposing gates of St. Ririana, my sister smiled.

"This place is neither the prison nor the juvenile detention center. It's just a typical and normal place for teenagers to study at."

"Well, you can put it that way....."

I mumbled while lifting my head to look at the school gate, which looked more like a castle gate.

"Even though the school I went to in Kyoto is considered a famous school as well, this academy is of a totally different level."

"Please pull yourself together. If you are saying such words now, what are you going to do a

week later when the school starts?"

"I am not as capable as Akiko."

"Onii-chan had passed the academy's entrance test. Then there is nothing to worry about, right?"

Well, what she said make sense.

Just like I had said, there are no back-doors available at this school. The only key that opens the gates of this academy is purely your own abilities.

Well, if you are asking how I manage to pass the entrance exams with my average grades - I guess it is via something similar to special admission. I won't talk about it for now.

The main point is, to me, studying in this school is a really large burden.

To be honest, I am a lazy person.

In order to live with my sister again, I had put in quite a large amount of effort. I really wish I won't have to go through those exhausting things again, if possible.

"Uwa. I really hate it. There is no choice but to put effort into studying."

"There will not be any problem if it's Onii-chan. Even if there is, I'll help you."

"So my younger sister will teach me, huh. That's a really unpleasant scenario. Although my younger sister is the same age as I since we are twins, I don't feel that good about it."

"Oh really. Please don't act like a child who only complains. Indeed, I was the one who came up with the idea of us studying in the same school, but Onii-chan agreed to it, no? If you are still hesitant about it, then you are not acting like a man."

That was totally true.

I cannot retort against that.

Ultimately, my reason for going to school during the holidays was to take the opportunity to get myself familiarized with the academy. And since I got my busy sister to bring me around, I'll be useless if I continued to stay here and procrastinate.

"It's alright, Onii-chan. Come come, don't be afraid."

My sister stepped past the gates while saying "come come".

..... Damn.

Am I a kid or something?

After taking almost all the credit for the whole house-moving incident, I originally thought I could at least maintain my dignity as an elder brother. Wasn't that all put to waste by this?

Well well, it is not necessarily a good thing to have an overly capable younger sister.

Ever since we had been separated, my sister had took my line, 'you must be a good girl', and treated it almost like the words of god. She had totally became a true lady and honor student. As someone whose looks and grades are both rather average, I still feel that I shouldn't be too

different from my sister. At least not to the point where I am pulling her down.....

"It's alright, Onii-chan. All the students studying in this school are humans, just like us. Although the outside rumors do cause some misunderstanding."

"Urm, I am not too worried about that."

"However, there are a few whose very existence should be seen as a sort of danger. They are inhuman, and one should not seek to get himself related to them no matter what."

"..... Although I was initially not worried about that, I am now starting to worry about things I had never even thought of earlier."

What the heck was that?

There are people in this school who even my sister tries to avoid contact at all cost, and are existing rather normally.....?

"It's okay. You won't get eaten. Generally speaking."

"..... According to what you had said, there are some occasions where people are eaten?"

"It's okay. The person to eat Onii-chan will only be me, because that's what I have decided ever since the beginning. I will definitely protect Onii-chan should there even be the slightest possibility of that happening. I will not allow anyone to snatch your love away from me, or for you to cheat on me."

"That is really dependable - is what I really wanted to say. But sadly, I am now experiencing a totally different uneasiness as compared to earlier."

"You just kept talking about all these meaningless stuff. Onii-chan, you just hate coming to this academy, right?"

"Yup."

"Ah that's enough. You are really a trouble-maker."

Even though she said that, my sister gave a light smile.

"However, it is really rare to see Onii-chan acting so spoiled. That was really cute, and I love it the most."

"!? Wha-What sort of humiliation is this.....! Looking back at my life, had I been humiliated that badly by my sister!? No, never! Arg, damn, I was actually seen as such a useless man.....!"

Well, I was exaggerating slightly.

After preparing myself mentally, I finally stepped into the school compounds.

It is something that is rather obvious, but right after stepping into the school, it felt like this was just like your typical school.

You will not get shot at suddenly, nor will you be warned by a stern voice that says "abandon all hope, ye who enter here!". [TLNote: From Divine Comedy by Dante Alighieri]

Still, this is an academy that had received countless donations. The school facilities had some Roman influences, which looked like a lot had been spent on them. But at the same time, they

had managed to make it look not extravagant. It totally does not feel upstart, as though it was just highlighting the style of the elite school.

"Well then, I'll bring you around to a few of the school's facilities. However, as the academy is rather huge, the places I can bring you to are quite limited."

"Mmm. I'll count on you then."

And so my sister guided me around the school, which was rather empty due to the spring holidays.

A sports complex that had the latest equipments.

A dojo that looked traditional and dignified.

A lecture theater that was as huge as a sporting arena.

A canteen that had kitchens similar to that of a grand hotel.

..... Well well. The high school I went to in Kyoto was no where as exaggerating as this. I had finally witnessed the grandness of this school.

It is a school that had over a hundred of years of tradition, and it had retained many old buildings that were listed as cultural relics. While protecting these things at the same time, they had imported plenty of modern-day technology as well, giving people the impression of their 'can do' attitude.

How should I put it.

To put it bluntly, as someone who is totally an ordinary person, being in this place is really uncomfortable.

"Well, we had roughly walked around the school once. What are your thoughts?"

"Yeah. To be honest, I am really scared."

"It's alright. You will get used to it soon."

"I will?"

"I had experienced exactly what Onii-chan is experiencing now a year ago. Indeed, when I first entered this school, I had personally seen a lot of things about this academy that made took me by surprise. There is a rather strange and unique atmosphere here. Although it is rather hard to put it into words..... was I intimidated by its awe, or was it just a sense of pressure?"

"Oh. So you felt that way too."

"Yes. But I got used to it quickly. As such, things will be fine. Onii-chan will definitely adapt to it in no time."

..... That was what my sister said.

Well, I had heard sayings about how there were students that could not get used to this unique atmosphere, and ultimately dropped out of the academy.

And there are also rumors that the number of these students far outnumbered those who were eliminated by the promotion exams.

Oh boy.

Can I really keep up?

I had to work while catching up to the progress of the school's syllabus - I was starting to think that this is something troublesome beyond imagination. Crap. Had I really made the wrong choice?

Forget it.

Even if I was like this, I am still the Akiko's elder brother.

No matter how scared I am, I have no intention of giving up without trying.

As someone who forcefully made our house moving and living together possible, that is my most basic principle

To explain it further, it is because I absolutely cannot do anything that will tarnish my sister's reputation.

"Onii-chan, as I have some matters to handle,"

"Hmm?"

"Regarding the plans for later-"

My sister gave an apologetic look.

"I am sorry, but I have to go to the student council for a while."

"Ahhh is that so. So it's this time already."

Well, I had already knew that this will happen.

Even though I knew my sister had things to do, I still forced her to bring me around the school.

"No problem, get going. You don't have to mind me. I'll just walk around by myself later."

"Is that okay? Can you do it alone?"

"Oi oi. No matter how useless I am, I am still your elder brother. I am not a child, I can handle my own stuff by myself."

"If not, you can just wait for me outside of school. Since we are going back to our house sooner or later, why don't you just return home now?"

"Well, since I had deliberately came here, I might as well take a tour. If I do that, I will not feel uneasy when the school starts, right?"

"But Onii-chan, don't you hate entering this school by yourself?"

"Idiot. That was just something I said initially. Just like you had said, I had gotten used to the atmosphere really quick. There are no problems now."

"Ahh. If that is so, that will be for the best....."

"Alright, hurry up and go. If I am to waste your time and get blamed by someone for 'dragging

my sister down', that will be a much bigger problem for me."

Even so, my sister was still showing a worried expression. But after a while, it became that of acceptance,

"Understood. Then off I go. I'll try to end it as early as possible, so let's meet at the canteen later, is that fine? You can wait there while enjoying some tea."

"Mm, that sounds pretty good. Let's do just that."

"And another thing."

My sister gave me a serious look,

"I have an advice to Onii-chan. Please try to follow it."

"Advice?"

"Yes. 'You are definitely not to get close to the students council room' - that is the advice that you must absolutely adhere to. Alright?"

"..... Is it because of that? Because of the students council's president?"

"That is part of the reason, but there are other reasons as well. In any case, please do not get close to the place."

"Well, why? Aren't you part of the students council as well?"

"In any case, no. Understand? If you absolutely have to see it, I'll find some day to show the place to you. So at least listen to me for today, alright?"

Urm... Hmm.

You are talking about my sister, someone who was unafraid of declaring herself as a bro-con to the world, and interpreting shower-peeping as a valid and correct course of action. It must be really something for her not wanting me to get near to what can be considered as her base, the students council's room.

Well, Nikaido Arashi - the predator that should not be overlooked - will be at the students council as well. I can understand why my sister is trying all her means to get me away from that place.

"..... O-K-. I'll listen to your advice. I will not get close to the students council's room for today. Let's agree on that."

"I am really grateful. I felt really relieved upon hearing that."

"It's nothing. Rest assured."

"Also, if you can give me a 'kiss before separation', I will feel even more relieved."

"The topic had strayed really far."

"If you can say to me 'You are the cutest girl in the world. I love you', I will feel even more relieved."

"Hey you, you've absolutely no intention of getting back on track, right?"

"..... You are not saying that to me?"

"No way."

"I'll be late if you don't say it soon!"

"Oh. Here comes your favorite move - being angry due to shame."

"Or does Onii-chan actually find me not cute at all!?"

"Eh-? How can that be. You are cute. You are really cute."

"Ahhh, there is totally no feelings in that! Onii-chan you are mean! You better be careful at night, alright!? I'll suddenly appear from the shadows, and snatch your lips away!"

Upon throwing that line at me, my sister hurriedly ran away.

It was probably that. She's very late due to all those silly chatters. That must be it.

My sister is really a fun person.

***

..... But to be honest.

It has turned into a situation where I am walking about the school by myself. Honestly speaking, it was slightly intimidating.

Wow.

This academy had a really unique atmosphere.

There's a really strong feeling in me that I am fighting on away grounds.

It is of a totally different level as compared to playing against your opponents at their home ground in football. If I am to come up with an analogy - it is like me attending a funeral while expecting it to be a party, all thanks to me not listening carefully to what the event was. That's how I am feeling now.

Well, it is not like this academy is totally against the outsiders. It just feels like there is an unspoken rule saying that all visitors are to be of a certain level if they wish to enter the school compounds.

As someone who is not that capable, it evoked my stubbornness.

..... I'll just let it be.

In any case, there was no turning back. I will just have to suck it up and get used to this atmosphere. Even if there is the question of whether I am capable of maintaining the grades required, I still have to do it.

"Well~ then. Where should I go?"

I began walking aimlessly. At the very least, I should start by gulping in the air of this academy.

There were not many students around as it was the holidays. Even so, the student population-density of this academy is definitely not low. I can see students concentrating on their club

activities everywhere.

The reputation of an elite school is definitely not just for show. Aside from studies, students are expected to have excellent grades in sports as well. There seem to be very little of those students who hole themselves in their rooms and study only their reference books.

Excelling in both studies and sports.

It sure was easy to say that, but to actually have to achieve that - it feels rather intimidating.

"Oh?"

Just when I was thinking of that, I had already walked into the sports field.

It's huge. This place can easily hold a football and baseball match at the same time.

And to think that a sports field of such size actually exists within the area of the Yamanote Line..... Ahh, I flinched just by thinking that. It just felt like the pressure which I was experiencing had increased. I better start thinking about things that are beneficial towards my mental health. [TLNote: Yamanote Line is one of the lines in Tokyo, which means that the land the school resides on are probably extremely expensive]

Well, lets do just that. It just so happens that the female athletes team was training nearby. I will just take a look-

"It is really impressive of you to be staring at the girls frivolously in broad daylight."

"Eh?"

"But you are really unlucky. The athlete club members will only be wearing revealing sports attire when they are participating in competitions. Or could it be that you a person that is attracted to those ordinary tight-fit sports wear?"

I turned my head to take a look at the direction where the strangely dull voice came from.

"Ah!? It is you!"

In front me stood the girl whom I had many encounters with back at the shopping mall.

Golden hair and sapphire blue eyes, the beauty whom I felt was really elusive.

And today, she is dressed in the uniform of this school.

"So you are a student of this academy. What a coincidence."

"To add on, due to the strict rules of the council, the sports attire for the female athletes of this school can only be of navy color, and nothing else. This is really great, a school with rules that fits your perverted taste."

"In regards to the school's sports attire and sports wear and etc, I had never asked about them, and neither was I planning to. And even though it is slightly late, I wasn't staring at the girls frivolously, nor do I have a complex in tight-fitting sports wear."

"Oh really? What a pity. To think that I will actually planning to allow you to see me wearing a set of tight-fit sports jersey if you wished."

"....."

It was really hard to communicate with her.

"I had given you lots of trouble the other day."

"Eh? Ahh, you don't have to mind. I didn't do much."

"That's right. I am just saying it out of courtesy, so you don't really have to reply that seriously."

"....."

If I were to say it, it was probably this.

Could it be that this girl is at the peak of her rebellious stage.....?

"I am sorry. But as I had said before, I just feel pissed off at every single speech and action of yours."

"You are really a trouble maker."

"And truthfully, this personality of mine should make it very difficult for you to communicate with me, right?"

"It's great that you are at least aware of that."

"But there's something I hope you will understand. A few days ago, I was in a state of extreme nervousness."

"You were nervous?"

For a girl that will not change her expressions under any circumstances, can she actually be nervous?

"Even though it may be difficult for someone to understand, but that was indeed the case. On that day, I was so nervous I could not remember the things I had talked with you about."

"Oh. That is really..... surprising? Or should I say that I was shocked?"

But whatever.

It did not take much to realize that the shopping complex was probably an unfamiliar place for this girl. She was totally unfamiliar with the surroundings, and thus had no idea what to do. Even though it was hard to imagine by her looks, she was probably acting way off her usual self. Just like how I felt like I was at the away grounds when I came to this academy.

Also, if I were to think deeper, her actions then was really weird. She was saying things that a typical person wouldn't say to a total stranger without any reservations. If that was due to her talking nonsense out of nervousness, that will explains things.

"Understood. Honestly, I was harshly played around by you that day. If that is the reason, then there was nothing we can do about it. I'll redo my impression of you today."

"It helps if you can say that. Ever since that day, I was feeling uneasy about whether I had left a bad impression on you. I have no idea how you perceived me, but the real me is someone who is an introvert and shy girl. There were cases in the past where I had said things that I had no intention of saying, due to my nervousness."

"Ah- so that is how it is. Ara, I understand. Such situations can happen to anyone."

"So had I cleared your misunderstandings?"

"Yeah. It's clear now."

"Is that so. That's great. Then, please take care of me, from today onwards."

"Mm. Me too."

"Well then, can I ask you something?"

"Eh? What?"

"Are you a virgin?"

I nearly slipped and fell.

"- Didn't we go through that topic for quite a long while the last time!? How forgetful are you to have forgotten a conversation of such impact!?"

And also, 'someone who is an introvert and shy' will typically not talk about that, alright!

"I am sorry. I had forgotten everything we had talked about, as I was too nervous back then."

"Oh really, please go easy on me..... The things that happened then can be considered as a traumatic experience of mine. If possible I wish we will not continue harping on it-"

"Well, so are you a virgin or not?"

"Damn, didn't I just say so?"

"Incidentally, I am a virgin as well."

"You had said that the last time!"

"Just right then, you had known a really personal information of mine, right? If that is the case, it is about time you tell me yours as well."

"And your forceful methods are still fresh in my mind!"

"....."

She became silent for a while.

She still had that blank expression, and she was looking elsewhere. After a short while, she slowly directed her sight back on me again,

"Sorry. What... did I just say?"

"..... You, are you having a youthful case of Alzheimer's?"

"Well then Virgin-kun. What are you doing here?"

"You are starting to stray off-topic again, while not allowing me to finish!"

Could it be that this girl was really being crazy?

Also, it seems like she had decided to treat me as a virgin huh. She should had forgotten about

what we had said back then, and I hadn't answered her today.

Ah forget it.

It was a pain to correct her, and that is the truth anyway.

"..... Well, starting this spring, I will be studying at this academy. So I am came here ahead of time..... oh, I should say I am just looking around?"

"Is that so. That is why you are looking at the girls of the female athletes club. That's so that you can imprint the images of those young, supple and feminine bodies into your mind, before eating them like vegetables."

"As a transfer student who wants to get used to the school's atmosphere as quickly as possible, why do I have to have a grudge against the female athletes club? You are wrong, it is not like that - I just want to breathe in the air of this school as soon as possible, and quickly get use to this atmosphere and feel."

"Is that so. Which means that you are at the stage where you want to breathe in the air exhaled by the girls of the female athletes club? Your obsession is certainly commendable."

"..... What the heck? Are you trying to belittle me no matter what?"

"I am sorry. I can't help but to harass you a little upon seeing you."

I remember she had said the same things as well back then.

How strange.

Could it be I am emitting a smell that causes someone to wish to bully me no matter what? Certainly, my height and weight are above average, and I looked ordinary as well. However, those things should not be enough reasons for me to be harassed like this.

"Please don't worry. I am not air-headed to the point where I will criticize every single sexual preference of yours. Regarding your actions, I'll just close one eye and ignore it."

"..... Why does it feel like you had placed a bad tag on me by yourself without me knowing anything?"

"If you insist that you are innocent, then I hope you can show the relevant proofs."

"That is exactly what I wanted to say. Since you are treating me like I am guilty, please show me the proofs."

"Well, if you want me to acknowledge it....."

She totally ignored my point and said.

"If you are to lust after me, who is not wearing a tight-fit sports wear, then it is possible for me to acknowledge the fact that your sexual presences are ordinary."

"..... So you are attacking with another close-to-obscene move, huh."

"In short, we are talking about the point if you can use me as a material for your hand***."

"STO~~~~~~~~~P!"

I had no choice but to yell that.

"I firmly oppose girls saying those sort of stuff!"

"In short, we are talking about the point if you can use me as a material to m*** l*** to yourself."

"Even if you are putting it in milder and ordinary terms, that is still a no!"

"Then you are violating my right to speak, aren't you? Regardless of 'hand***' or 'm**ing l*** to oneself", both are valid Japanese terms to express the act of mas*****ting. They are terms that does not require censorship on television programs. I feel that those are not terms that need you to object violently with that ghastly expression of yours."

"In any case, no! Denied! I will not allow you to act like that, absolutely not!"

"You are surprisingly stubborn."

Even though she said that, her expressions were still the same.

"Whatever. As I had no wish for you to do those things in front of me, I'll just treat your sexual preferences to be those like anyone else, for now."

"I really thank you for that..... Wait after saying that, I realized that you had not done anything that deserved my thanks, right?"

At least for now.

"Nothing of that sort. Didn't you just see me saying those lewd terms like 'hand***' and 'm**ing l*** to oneself'? If it was anyone else, they would have wet themselves on the spot out of happiness. It was an absolutely lucky incident, alright? It's nothing weird for you to thank me for that."

"I am sorry, but those thing had no such effects on me."

So you are actually aware of the fact that you were saying something lewd.

"Incidentally, it was the first time I was saying all those terms."

"Ehhhhhh?"

"To be honest, it was so embarrassing that my face felt like it was burning. Although it was not shown through my expression."

"Is that so..... I thought you were someone to frequently say those things."

"How rude. No matter how incompetent I am, I am still someone with status. How can I do such shameless acts?"

"..... Well, going by your logic, it means that it is totally fine if you are to do such shameless acts to a stranger?"

"That can't be helped."

With that said, she gave a sigh.

"Somehow, I want to harass you regardless of the place and time."

"That is really..... how should I put it..... really troublesome."

That applies to both me and her.

"Well it looks like we are really incompatible towards each other. Wouldn't it be better if we try to stay away from each other?"

"That will not do. You are a suspicious person who was pretending to be looking at the girls of the female athletes club, but behind that facade you are planning something. If I was to ignore you and not take any preventive measures, I will be made responsible should anything happens."

"I had said that it was a misunderstanding, okay."

"Therefore. If you wish to continue looking around the academy, I shall follow along as well."

"Eh? You?"

Her sudden request took me by surprise.

"Which means to say you are willing to show me around this school?"

"Well, generally speaking, yes."

"But is that okay? You actually came back on a school holiday, so that means you have something on, right?"

"It is not like I have nothing to do, but the things here are of a higher priority."

"Hmmmmmm."

Even though it did not feel right for me to take up her time, her suggestion would fulfill my wish. If someone from this school was to guide me around, then it would probably soothe this feeling of being on away grounds. Actually, I should say that I want to lower my head and request her to do this.

"That will be a huge help. Well, can I request you to do that then?"

"It's not big deal, so you don't have to thank me. Ultimately, I am just fulfilling the role of a student of this school, and also-"

With that said, her typically blank face showed an intriguing expression (how shocking),

"I am reflecting on it."

"Reflecting?"

Reflecting on what?

Turning the innocent me into a pervert?

"Regarding the fact that I am hard to get along with."

"....."

That was really messy.

"I am really regretful about that. I feel really apologetic from the bottom of my heart. I am so serious that I wish I can go back in time to the period where I was about to encounter you, so that I can start all over again."

"Urm..... that is a little to exaggerated, no?"

"That is not true. If I can fulfill that wish, I think it will be alright even if I am verbally abused by you."

"Hold on a second. Can you please not think of me as someone that wants to do that?"

"If I can fulfill that wish, I think I can accept it even if I am r*ped by you, and is forced to bear your child."

"Hey look. Can you please not continue on the topic with the thought that I will do those things to you?"

"And it is because I always liked to say such things that caused our relationship to be messier and messier. I am well aware of that as well."

"..... At least you have some self-awareness on that."

Well, instead of saying that things get messier, it's more like I have no idea how to handle her, that's all.

"Forget the whole thing, let us not talk about that. Please guide me around the school."

"And that means you are willing to accept my proposal?"

"Mmm."

"..... Even though this idea was suggested by me."

She prepared a backdoor for herself by saying this,

"But is it alright? If you continue to mess around with me, you will be bewitched by me further and further. If you want to reject it, now is your chance."

"Well, I have some awareness regarding that..... But whatever. I am used to your behavior - although it is not till that point yet, but I do generally understand your personality. I won't put it to mind, so please guide me."

"Is that so."

As she said that, she stared into the horizon.

Thanks to the great weather today, the broad sky was dyed bright blue. It was hard to imagine that this is a place in Tokyo.

A gentle and warm breeze spread the smell of the blooming cherry blossoms.

It was as though she had blended into the art-like scenery.

"I understand. I shall lead the way."

Just that instance.

The tip of her mouth showed a slight smile that is similar to that of a flower in full bloom - or that was what it looked like.

..... Ehhhhhhh.

Even though I had not seen anything remotely close to an expression on this girl's face.

That gently smiling face - isn't it beautiful beyond words?

Even when she was expressionless, she was already an exceptional beauty - however, it's the sort of beauty that prevents people from getting close to her. Honestly speaking, I was slightly shocked. She turned into such a charming girl with just a slight smile.

How should I put it - she is already very beautiful normally..... but even so, I am still surprised. It was a perfect smile. For a smile like that, it will be great if she can maintain that smile at normal times-

"What?"

Upon realizing that I was acting strange, she asked,

"You had been grinning for a while now, and it is really creepy. Are you imagining me being verbally abused by you and enjoying it in secret?"

"..... So you still want to harp on that?"

"And you are planning to replay that scene again and again, and to use it to m*****bate, right? Your pervertedness had totally seeped into your bones, and it really makes me feel extremely creep out."

"That is why I had said, that is not the case."

"Forget it. I owe you that much, so I will endure most of the things that you will do to me."

"I don't think it is not possible, but are you referring to that? That you owed me due to your troublesome personality which gives me a hard time?"

"Yes."

She really likes to dwell on that.

If you are already aware of it yourself, why don't you try to come up with some solutions?

"Look, I have no idea what you are thinking. However, I don't think you owe me anything because of that."

"I am really happy that you are saying that, but the crux still lies in what I think."

"Just let it be? Even if you do owe me anything, didn't you agree to bring me around the school? That will write off everything."

"That will not do. Even though it does compensate for it a little, an act of that level is totally not enough for me to repay what I had owed you. Even if I have to endure the unpleasant smell that is coming off from your body, I will still have to repay back the debts that are left."

"Damn, why do you have to bring up that old gag!"

And you had dug out my psychological trauma with that line!

"Hold on a second. Regarding that, I shall prove my innocence, right here and now. With my reputation on the line."

"Go ahead."

"Firstly, I had bathed properly prior to coming out."

"That is commendable."

"When we previously met, it was at a shopping complex that had rather powerful heaters. However, as you can see, the weather is great today. We can remove the possibility of me giving a weird smell due to sweat."

"Indeed, the weather is fine. Neither hot nor cold, and the humidity is just right. Air circulation is great as the surroundings are very open."

"And a close friend of mine who had known me for years confirmed this. That person said that my body odor never did exceed that of the typical levels, after knowing me for so long."

"That person explicitly stated that? It takes considerable courage for someone who is neither your parents nor your other half to be talking about the smell of your body. You have a good friend. Please treasure him."

"Lastly. I did not eat garlic last night."

"Although garlic has a high nutritional content, it does leave behind a pungent smell. I believe that is a wise decision."

"And thus, upon hearing all these facts, I have to ask you this."

"Go ahead."

"..... Does my body really have a smell?"

"Yup. A very strong smell."

"WHY!?"

I felt like fainting.

"It's weird, alright!? I had actually rejected all possible causes, where exactly is that smell coming off from my body that makes you that pissed?"

"Even if you ask me that, I am quite disturbed as well. I had just met you twice, so how I can tell you such a private thing?"

"I cannot accept it! You have to tell me clearly the cause of the smell!"

"Now you had got me stumped. How should I describe something like, 'a smell that makes me pissed and it is hard for me to pinpoint where it is coming from'?"

"Is my body odor that unique and mysterious!?"

"If I have to say it no matter what..... Ah, you can put it this way - 'It is totally like the smell of garbage that is left to rot for a week under the summer sun'."

"What the heck..... The way you put it is overboard beyond words, to the point where I am drained of all my energy to even retort back!"

I had deliberately raised my voice in order to drown hers. In other words, 'this is a secret between you and me'.

"Do you want to know the origin of that smell?"

"Urm, judging from that tone of yours, could it be that you have an answer!?"

"That's right. I do think I had got it. Do you want to know?"

"Definitely! Do you have to ask!"

"Really?"

"There is nothing that I want to know more!"

"Do you swear that you will not change your mind?"

"Of course!"

"Is that so. Your determination had came through to me."

With that blank expression of hers,

"But sorry. I cannot tell you the answer."

"Eh? Why?"

"I wish to continue harping on this topic for a while."

.....

"Are you angry?"

"..... No. Should I say that I am mad, or what?"

Was I stunned, or was I just drained of all my energy.

"You cannot tell me the answer? You should have enough fun keeping me in suspense."

"I am sorry. I understand what you are trying to say, but I just wish to keep dwelling on this subject. Please forgive me."

"No matter what?"

"No matter what. Even if I have to kneel in front of you."

"Even if you do that, I....."

"If not, I can remove my lingerie and give it to you on the spot as my apology."

"Alright, if we are going into that then please stop."

I stopped her immediately,

"I understand. Even though I don't know everything, I understand. If you do not feel like telling me, I will not force you. The only thing that I cannot accept is you not telling me after you had hooking me, and now you are keeping me in suspense."

"I am really sorry. Please go along with my obstinance."

"No, forget it. Do not put it to heart."

That is my heartfelt truth.

Honestly speaking, it will not be strange for me to go mad in anger. But even though she treated me like that, I could not get angry at her. Strange.

Perhaps it was because I could not detect any hostility coming from her. That probably explains everything.

She is a really strange girl. I guess you can call that a talent of hers.

"In replacement, I wish to ask something else."

"Which is?"

"Can I know your reasons for wanting to dwell on this subject? I don't think it will matter if you let me know."

"There are three reasons."

She said.

"The first reason. Only if we are to dwell on the subject, will I be able to enjoy teasing you further. That is what I think."

"..... Forget it, I had roughly guessed that. Even so, that is a rather random reason."

"I am sorry. As my apology, please use the lingerie which I am about to remove from my body to-"

"No no no, you don't have to..... Well, the other reasons?"

"The second reason is, I wish to have at least one topic that I can talk with you."

"..... If it is conversation topics that you want, I think there are as many as you wish for, right? You don't have to be that reluctant to finish the topic. For example, we can start by talking about how I am not used to this academy, and many others."

"Theoretically yes, but that is something hard to do. I will get really nervous upon meeting you, which results in me only talking about that sort of weird stuff."

"Nervous? You?"

"Yes."

"Liar. You are totally not nervous?"

"I am really nervous right now."

"There is no change in your expressions, and your tone is rather calm as well."

"I am nervous in places where it cannot be seen."

"Hmm, what you had said is totally not convincing."

"If you cannot believe in it no matter what, then you will have to take home my lingerie that I had stripped off from my body."

"I have no idea why the topic went in that direction, nor do I have any idea your reason for doing so. In any case, I humbly decline."

"How strange. There should be many people who will risk their lives in order to get my lingerie. Are you saying you will just let the chance go without doing anything?"

"Please do not lump everyone's interest together..... And then? What is the third?"

"If it will be revealed sooner or later, I might as well wait for the moment where it has a greater impact upon revelation. That is what I think."

"Urm, you don't have to think that far....."

"It is important for me to sort out my feelings as well. It is something that I had only realized not too long ago. The true form of your smell."

"Hah?"

"And that's how it is. Can you accept it? The reasons I want to dwell on the subject of your smell."

"Even though I cannot accept them, I do know you have your difficulties as well. You are someone who does not need any reason to do anything, as long as you go with your whims."

"How rude. If you continue slandering me without any basis, I will make you wear the lingerie that I removed off my body. Right here and now."

She really loves to talk about that.

Could it be that she like that gag?

"Well, let us just put those aside for a moment. We had strayed too far, and had forgotten our real motive."

"Which is?"

"Shouldn't it be about time that you bring me around this academy?"

"Come to think of it, that is our original motive."

"That is right. It will be troublesome if you forget that."

"Well, I have to tell you a regrettable thing."

She suddenly changed her tone,

"Lots of time had passed while we are having this silly talk. It is about time I go back."

"..... Uwa."

"Please do not look at me with that expression - if you do not want me to put the lingerie I that I have removed off my body onto your head."

"Well, I am someone who is doing the requesting. There was no reason for me to force you to do this anyway. But how should I put it, the time I had spent talking to you are treated as a 'silly talk'....."

"I am sorry. As I was too happy chatting with you, I had forgotten about the time."

"Ah-..... Forget it. If you put it that way, it makes it more difficult for me to ask for you to compensate me-"

"So what you are saying is you can accept that?"

"Ahhh damn! I should not have answered that honestly! Even though I had knew what sort of person you are!"

"That is Nasuhara Anastasia."

She said.

As usual, it came all of the sudden.

"Eh?"

"My name. Nasuhara Anastasia."

I reflexively shook her outstretched right hand.

"Please take good care of me."

"Ahh. mm. Please take care of me."

"You can just call me Anna."

"Ah, mm. Anna. I understand."

"Hmph. To call a girl a hole. You are a really impressive guy." [TLNote: Word play for 穴, あな (ana). Means a hole.]

"..... Can you please stop trying to trick me with your dangerous word play?"

"I shall go now."

With that said, she turned her body."

"Have a good day. May you enjoy your school life."

"Ah, mm. Thanks."

"And also- please be mentally prepared the next time we meet."

"Be mentally prepared for what?"

"Well then, goodbye."

Ending off with that, Nasuhara Anastasia took a firm step and left coolly.

Her golden hair swayed with her steps, just like the wheat at the fields that are being blown by the wind. Even though she was just walking, the scene looked as though it was from a famous work of art.

Wow.

What a gorgeous girl. It will be even better if she was easier to communicate with.

Well, forget it. I had reaped lots of rewards too.

Even though the plan of taking a tour around the school was terminated, I had gained Nasuhara Anastasia as a friend. Being an average person who had entered into an elite school, my initial uneasiness was slightly quelled as well. If I am to fight on away grounds, it will be better even if I just know one more person.

Let us think deeper.

Nasuhara Anastasia from just now.

Students council's president Nikaido Arashi.

And my unworthy younger sister.

After knowing three people, the feeling of being on away grounds is no longer as strong as it used to be.

I cannot always be this timid.

I am still Akiko Himenokouji's elder brother after all.

Even if it is just to preserve the reputation of my sister, who had became really outstanding after the period of absence, I had no choice but to act as required in this school.

Alright.

My motivation had came.

Although I was not too used to this school, that was actually a good opportunity for me to do something huge. I will take care of everything, regardless of studies, work, or housework. If I can't do that, the meaning behind my efforts in reuniting and living with my sister will.....

"Onii-chan. What are you doing?"

"..... Eh?"

I saw my sister when I turned my head.

"What's up, Akiko? Why are you here? Are you done with the work at the students council?"

"Yes. I am done with that long ago."

With that, she puffed up her cheeks,

"I had been waiting at the canteen for Onii-chan for a while, but I couldn't see you coming. So I began looking for you. You should had explored the school enough, right?"

"Ah, is that so. So it is time already."

"Onii-chan is really mean for making his sister wait for such a long time."

"Sorry sorry. I am indeed in the wrong this time."

"If you do really feel apologetic, please say 'I am really sorry for making the pretty and cute Akiko wait'."

"I am really sorry for making the pretty and cute Akiko wait. Ah, I am really sorry."

"..... Uh. Onii-chan is really honest today. Darn, if I knew that, I would have asked for more....."

"Oi. You are being greedy."

"Ehehe. But Onii-chan."

"What?"

"It feels slightly different from before. You were actually having a stiff expression just now. But now, it is as though you are rather relaxed. Have you gotten used to this school already?"

"Ah, yeah. That's right. That is roughly it."

Certainly.

As compared to when I first step into the school, my feelings now were totally different.

I am no longer intimidated. Even though I am still slightly uneasy, it was not at the point where I could not overcome it.

Perhaps it was all due to her credit.

Nasuhara Anastasia.

While it may seems like I had wasted a lot of time with that girl, it is undeniable that I am no longer nervous after going through all that mess. If I was to say why, it is because I have to waste a lot of energy while I was talking to her. Should I say that I had totally no time to be nervous, or that I had to try my very best to keep up with her tempo, or risk lagging behind.

"And so that is how it was, Akiko. I had made a friend while I was walking around this school. After talking about all sorts of things with that person, I became relaxed unknowingly."

"..... Uhhhh. From your tone, the person should be a girl."

"That is right."

"Uhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh"

My sister pout her lips and showed an expression as if she would throw a fit.

"Well, forget it. It is part of the requirements of a cute younger sister to forgive this level of unfaithfulness."

"What do you mean by unfaithful?"

"No matter what, it is great that you had got used to the school. It was worth it to come to the school even though it is the holidays."

"Mmm, that is right. Thank you Akiko, for accompanying me even though you were busy."

"That is nothing. If Onii-chan wants, I will do all sorts of things for you. However....."

"Hmm? What?"

"Onii-chan. Did anything happen during the period when we were separated?"

"Eh? What are you referring to?"

"Nothing. Even though I am not too sure of it..... But Onii-chan's body is giving out that hateful smell again."

"Urm."

Why.

Even my sister had said the same thing as that golden-haired beauty.....?

And why were things developing exactly like how it did back at the shopping mall?

"..... Onii-chan. I have a really ominous feeling."

With that said, my sister got close to me while frowning,

"The girl whom Onii-chan got close to. What sort of person is she?"

"Eh? Uhhh- hmm, how should I put it?"

That was a really difficult question to answer.

How should I describe Nasuhara Anastasia?

Expressionless and speaking in a dull tone. Likes to say random stuff, and even find all sorts of reasons to harass me- it is hard to use words to describe this type of people.

However, she can be considered as my savior, so I could not be talking bad about her. Also, I do not dislike her at all.

"Her smile."

Which was why.

I had decided to say her biggest strength.

"She is a girl with a great smile. A really great smile."

"..... Uhhh. Great smile, that's how it is huh. Then I must be thinking too much."

"? Even though I am not too sure of what you are talking about, but is that so?"

"Yes. It looks like my ominous feelings are unfounded. How could that person have smiled? .....

Ignoring that for a moment, Onii-chan. Just right then, something worse had happened."

"Hmm? What thing?"

"I had never heard Onii-chan praising me with anything similar to having 'a great smile'."

"Oh. Is that so?"

"Yes. You had never said that."

My sister seemed furious,

"If you can say that about a girl whom I had never even seen once, why can't you say that to your cute little sister? This is a serious crime. If this is a world of sis-con, then this crime will be punished severely."

"That is a little exaggerated."

"As such, I wish you can say 'Akiko have a great smile too'. Properly."

"? What are you talking about?"

I tilted my head and said.

"Isn't that unnecessary? Do I even have to deliberately say things like how Akiko's smile is really beautiful? To me, your smile is the smile that I love the most in this world."

"..... Fuwa..."

My sister suddenly collapsed.

"Oi Akiko!? What is wrong with you!?"

"T-That is too destructive....."

"How are you feeling now!? Why is your nose bleeding!?"

"I-It's alright..... It's fine."

My sister stopped me from carrying her up, and stood up while pinching her nose.

"Is it anemia? Or are you having a heat-stroke? While during early spring?"

"No, it is nothing. It will be fine after a while. Really, Onii-chan will occasionally do such dense things. I cannot be careless at all....."

"Eh? What are you talking about?"

"Nothing. In any case, my wish had been fulfilled. I am absolutely satisfied now."

After wiping away the blood from her nose, my sister said with her flushed face (the cause of her red face is not her blood),

"I am in an extremely good mood right now. I'll cook whatever Onii-chan wants to eat for today."

"Oh, I am really thankful for that. Is it really alright? Your nose bleeding, you know?"

"Absolutely no problem. The bleeding and whatever will be stopped quickly. It was just my blood platelets going wild. Let us not talk about that, do you have anything that you want to eat? Anything is fine."

"Well if that is the case-"

There was really a lot of blood from her nose,

"How about stir-fried cow's liver?"

"Stir-fried cow's liver? That is no big deal!"

My sister repeatedly nodded her head and gave a perfect smile.

-Hmm.

There was indeed no mistaking it.

The smile of my sister is the world's number one. No matter what others may say, but for me, this is a truth that needs no confirmation. It is even more absolute and undeniable than 1+1=2. Even if she had finally confirmed this thing, there should not be a need for her to be this happy, right?

Whatever.

There was nothing better than my sister being happy.

"Well then. Shouldn't we get moving?"

"Yes! Let us visit the supermarket before we go back!"

And those were the things that happened.

The trip for me to experience St. Ririana had generally ended peacefully.

[Onii-Ai v1] Chapter 7: 6th April (The thirteenth day of living together - One day before the opening ceremony)

"That Nasuhara - could it be her? Could she be the daughter of Nasuhara Industries?"

Two days later.

After telling that person the incidents that happened during the earlier school visit, Ginbe said that.

"Hmmm? Nasuhara Industries? Really?"

"The name Nasuhara is not common. And since she is a student of a royalty school, the possibility is even greater. Lady Anastasia obviously had a celebrity feel about her - that was what you had said."

"Ah, mmm. Indeed."

But it's actually that Nasuhara Industries? Ranging from spaceships, to the screws of the doorknobs, to nearly everything - it is a monstrous enterprise that ships industrial products worldwide.

"If that is really the case, you have obtained a really good friend even before you enter the school, Akito. That's some luck you have."

"Yeah. Even so, that is not confirmed for now."

"Even if she is not the daughter of a huge enterprise with a long history, I still think you had met a really interesting girl."

"Well..... yeah. I do feel that she is a girl who will not make it boring for others."

And also a girl who is extremely troublesome.

"Rather than creating more enemies, it will be better if you win more people to your side, and that is even more important for your situation right now. The act of you living together with your sister is built upon the delicate balance of power between many different factors. It is something that is extremely unstable, so I hope you are more self-aware in that matter. Also, the number of your people on your side is really few - aside from your blood-related sister, there is only me."

"Mm. Well, I suppose it is."

"If it's Lady Anastasia, she will definitely be a trustworthy ally as long as you get along with her. Since it is fate for you two to meet, you must treasure that. Not just her, but also the students council president whom we had talked about some time ago as well."

"Nikaido-senpai? Well, there is the possibility of her standing on my side, but..... instead of being the trustworthy type, she is more of the dangerous type of person."

"If you can control a toxic substance well, it can be used a medicine. But if you fail, it will be a lethal poison. Having understood that, only an exceptional man can accept good and evil at the same time, and filter them accordingly. You must take advantage of every single thing that can be of use to you."

"Well, that is how it is theoretically. However, that person will definitely not make it easy for me. If I strike carelessly, the only one to suffer will be me. I feel that the end result will be me getting countered by her."

"Oh. I wish that you will not say that, especially when you are someone who had tricked countless people to get into the position you are at today."

Fuuu, came the sigh of the person through the phone.

After a while,

"Akito, do you have no intention of ending your current lifestyle?"

"Eh?"

"You are a very important person to me. That's why I accepted and helped you in your endeavors. If necessary, I will even give you some suggestions as well. I will try my best to respect your decision in doing all these things, since you were extremely determined about it. As such, I do not wish to say this if possible - but it looks like I have reached my limit."

What was going on here? Typically, Ginbe's voice will have a touch of ridicule in them - or rather, it felt like that person had always been slightly looking down on me. However, the voice now brought about a sense of seriousness that I have never heard of before.

"Akito. This is my final advise. It is better for you to not continue with your lifestyle. Honestly speaking, a person like you is not suited for a life like that. The way of living that precariously balances all the useful and harmful relationships, and managing them as though you are walking on a tightrope."

"....."

"From my view, living a life where you farm spinach at some rural village seems to be something more suitable for your original personality. I think your misfortunes started from the moment the Takanomiya adopted you..... It's still not too late for you to fix the path of your life, though you had already strayed away from it. You are well aware of what's more suitable for you, aren't you?"

"..... Yeah, I cannot rebut that. That is how it is."

"Come back, Akito. You can still barely make it of you do so now. Leave your sister's life to the Arisugawa, and you can just go back to depending on the Takanomiya like you used to. Even though there will be lots of troublesome things waiting, the rewards will definitely not be lacking as well. It is not like the Arisugawa or the Takanomiya families are going after the lives of you siblings."

"And you are right. Or should I say that it will actually be the best for us."

"It must have been painful for the both of you to berestricted from living together or communicating with your relative. You siblings definitely must have yearned to reacquire the

relationship between the both of you. But the thirst for that should have been satisfied to a certain degree during this period of time where you have both lived together. The Takanomiya and Arisugawa families should be reconsidering the way they had treated you siblings as a result of this incident. You will definitely get some improvements in the way they threat of the both of you if you negotiate. Although it will still be impossible to change the fact that you siblings will be separated again..... it will definitely be better as compared to the past, where you had no rooms for negotiation."

"And maybe things will really go that way."

"Even though I think you had already known this, but just to reiterate - I am not saying all of this to you under the request of the Takanomiya or Arisugawa."

"I know that, Gin. Indeed, it is something that you do not have to tell me."

"Thus, let me ask you again."

A slight pause.

"Akito. Do you have no intention of giving up your current life and returning here again?"

"Nope."

I answered without even thinking.

"I have no intention of giving up my current lifestyle, and I have never thought of returning back there either. Just as you said, I had put in a great deal of determination before I did this. After coming so far, how can I possibly abandon everything or surrender? As for my right to live with my most important family member, even though I may be unable to prevent it from being taken away by someone, I have absolutely no intention of easily losing my grip on it either. To be separated from my younger sister just to cater to the wishes of those people who aren't even my relatives is something I do not ever wish to go through again. Even if I am to get involved in troublesome matters to protect this right, I will do all I can to smash through all the obstacles before me. And then I'll be doing everything I can to maintain my rights. Gin, I do feel that your advice is sound, and if we are to swap positions, I'll probably be saying the same thing to you as well. However, this is the only thing that I can never abide to."

"You will not listen no matter what?"

"No matter what, I will not."

"Even though you had succeeded this time, your methods were rather forceful. There should be better ways to accomplish your goals. It's not like there are no alternate ways of doing that will result in everyone being pleased, although those ways will take slightly more time. Even if you had chosen a difficult path, there is still time for you to deploy better methods - despite knowing all this, are you still not going to listen to me?"

"Just give up, Gin. I want to do as I wish, just this once."

"..... Is that so."

With that, my friend became silent for a while.

"Gin."

"..... Yes?"

"Are you angry?"

"Why do you think so?"

"Well. It's because you are not saying anything."

"Don't worry. I am just trying my best not to laugh."

"Ah-..... Urm, that's great. You know, you are the one person in this world whom I do not want to piss off the most."

"If that is really what you think, then please remind yourself of that when you are dealing with me in the future, alright..... In any case, it's fine. Indeed, I am stunned by how stubborn you are, but I am not angry at you. You answers are within my expectations, but I thought it was worth trying."

"? What do you mean?"

"If you are moved even the slightest by my suggestions, I would be going all out trying to talk you into giving up. To give up that life of yours that lacks any plans."

"..... Oh."

This person must have planned to do just that.

Sawatari Ginbe Haruomi is just that type of person. And I think a really serious Ginbe would have succeeded.

"I am glad that you're a man who follows through with his actions. That is how a man whom I approved should act."

"What? Are you trying to lick my boots again? That method will no longer work, you know?"

"Even if you say that, I still know you are probably blushing and looking away, despite me being separated away from you through the phone-lines."

"You are irritating."

"Kuku..... In any case, I am relieved. If your will is that strong, then there should be no problem. Even if there are many obstacles waiting for you in the future, I believe that Akito will definitely get past them all."

"That sounds very optimistic from you, considering your personality. Honestly, I am not able to see that far into the future."

"No. It will definitely be fine."

With a rather intriguing tone of faith, my friend made the following conclusion.

"Well we shall meet again, Akito. I'll be visiting you some time soon. Take care."

***

"..... Oh boy."

I was still at that apartment inside the shabby seventy-plus years-old building.

After having that talk with my friend over the phone, I took a huge sigh and laid on the tatami.

"Gin's mood seems to be slightly better.....?"

Sawatari Ginbe Haruomi, a person who is always giving a light smile while tilting the body sideways. Even as an old acquaintance, I have not seen that person flustered before.

But precisely because I am an old acquaintance that I know this.

Despite the voice and tone sounding like their usual..... ever since I had moved, Gin's fury had always been immeasurable.

In reality, Ginbe had said the same thing as well.

Although Ginbe had answered my questions, and have even responded to my calls for help.

But that does not mean Ginbe's anger have subsided.

It is purely due to the fact that Sawatari Ginbe Haruomi is a person who can control those feelings and actions calmly, while finding the perfect solution at those crucial moments.

Generally, I am inferior to Ginbe in everything - and this is the only thing that can cause that person to nag.

Calmer than anyone, but at the same time, more passionate than anyone as well.

But it's precisely because of those personalities of Ginbe that is making me worried.

How long will it take before Ginbe's feelings can return to normal?

What can I do to make it return to normal?

The current me have way too many things to worry about. But the thing that concerned me the most was the course of action that my friend will take. I have no idea why.

Ginbe is someone who does things that are way out of my expectations.

I had to keep my plans a secret no matter what, and that made me lost all my credibility as a friend. Despite that, Ginbe had already expressed forgiveness. Even so, borrowing the words of that person, 'being angry at someone and forgiving him are two separate matters'.

Urm..... Well.

I did think about showing up at Ginbe's house some time later, while bringing along with me that person's favorite cake as a form of apology. Or maybe I should be delivering the cake as quickly as possible. I don't think Ginbe will like it if I am being too blatant in my attempts to please, but that was about the only thing I could do at the moment-

"Onii-chan. Are you done with the call?"

Ah.

My sister asked.

Her voice came from the room next door.

She had temporarily left me alone in consideration to that fact that I was talking to someone

over the phone.

"Ahhh sorry. You can come in now."

I said that while lying on the tatami.

I do know it is indecent to do that, but I felt really tired after talking to my friend.

The Takanomiya will not let things slide if I did that at their place, but there is only one family member around right now. Please let me off the hook this time around.

"!"

I bounced back up reflexively.

The reason was because my sister was sitting down elegantly in front of the opened door. She was dressed in a kimono, which was rare of her.

"__"

Just like that, she silently bowed to me.

sa sa sa. She moved forward while kneeling down and got past the door frame. She silently closed the door.

After getting next to me, she bowed again.

"..... What is wrong? Why are you dressed like this all of the sudden?"

"Are you shocked?"

My sister lifted her head and stuck out her tongue. I then said,

"Of course I am. This is really surprising. Didn't you leave your kimonos and stuff with the Arisugawa family?"

"Mmm, that was what I had originally planned. Shouko-san however said 'at the very least, take this with you', and forcefully pushed this piece of kimono onto me without listening to anything that I had said."

"Oh. Is that so?"

Come to think of it, this is the first time I had seen my sister dressed in such splendid attire. Up until six years ago, I had only seen my sister in a kimono during the Doll Festivals.

"Isn't that great? It suits you a lot."

"Ehehe. Thank you."

"..... Well then? I now know where this kimono came from, but why are you wearing it?"

"You can say that it's me 'beginning things formally'. It is so that I can convey to you my thoughts and feelings as clearly as I can. "

"Huh?"

"Tomorrow is the school's opening ceremony. I thought that this will be a good opportunity..... If I am to delay this indefinitely, I may never get to convey my feelings until I die."

While saying that.

My sister placed her each of her three fingers of both hands on the ground, lowered her head, and did a standard bow.

"Onii-chan. I am really thankful to you for the things that had happened. As your younger sister..... no, before that, as a person. I give you my heartfelt gratitude."

"..... What's with that?"

I was shocked by her smooth white neck that had been exposed through the hem of her kimono.

I tried to hide it by letting out a bitter smile, and said the following words while keeping my voice as calm as possible.

"What a weird person you are. I was trying to come up with a reason for you to be dressed like that and acting so formally. What is going on here? What are you thanking me for?"

"For taking me away from the Arisugawa family. For living together with me like this. For bringing me up like a parent - things like that."

"Ahaha. So it is those things?"

I smiled lightly at my sister, who was still lowering her head deeply,

"Those are things which I should be doing, no? You don't have to thank me. You are my younger sister and my only family in this whole world."

"Even if we are relatives, I still can't accept Onii-chan's grace unconditionally. Moreover, Onii-chan had went through great pains to do those things for me..... No matter how incompetent I am, I am still someone who had lived with the Arisugawa family for so long. How can I not understand that?"

"Come on, lift up your head."

"No. We have been living together for thirteen days, and up till today I was not able to properly convey my thanks. I will not lift up my head until my gratitude has been properly conveyed to you."

..... Oh boy.

I sighed silently.

I could do nothing. If that was how it is, then I had no choice but to go along with my sister.

However, rather than me finally reuniting with her after six years, I actually felt like I had made her wait for six long years before we can be together again. Considering that, it should be me who had let her down. It looks like me and my sister had interpreted this incident rather differently.

"..... And also....."

The end of that line was slightly shaky, as though my sister was trying to force the words out from her throat.

"I have no choice but to apologize to Onii-chan."

"Apologize? Why?"

"I had doubted Onii-chan before."

"You had doubted me?"

"Yes. Six years ago, when we were separated, Onii-chan had said this to me, right? 'One day, I will make you return back to my side, so trust me and be a good girl' - that was what you had told me."

"Yup, I did say that."

"Of course, I had never doubted it initially. As long as it was Onii-chan who had said it, then there will be no problems, He will definitely come to pick me up real soon. That was what I believed in."

It was not just the sentences.

I took a closer look at my sister's slim shoulders.

They were trembling slightly, just like those of a child that was frightened by lightning.

"But one month had passed, then half a year had passed, and then it was a year. After that, it became two years, three years, four years. At that time, I was no longer a child, and I could already differentiate between what can be done and what cannot. I had gradually came to understand the sort of place the Arisugawa and Takanomiya families are. Forget about Onii-chan coming to take me away or seeing me, I could not even write a proper letter to you."

"....."

"Initially, I only thought about Onii-chan every single day. However, unknown to me, there were days where I began to not think about Onii-chan anymore. Whenever I thought of Onii-chan, it felt like my blood was flowing in the reverse direction - I was anxious, and I could not endure it. To add on to that, even though Kiyotsugu-san and Shouko-san were strict, they were very nice to me. I slowly started to feel like it would be alright to become one of the Arisugawa, and it did not really matter anymore if I could never see Onii-chan again. But I absolutely hated myself for thinking that way, I w-was really, r-really uneasy and scared-"

"Akiko."

"Yes?"

"Are you crying?"

"I am not crying."

Came the sound of a sniff.

The sound of her sniveling.

"Isn't this crying?"

"I am not crying!"

"They are already of the past. All those things."

Towards my respectful sister, I said slowly and clearly.

"We had not settled all of our problems yet. However, what is important is that both you and me are here right now. That is everything all that matters, instead of whatever happened on our paths here. Don't you think so too?"

"Yes. Even though I think the same-"

"And also, if Akiko is to apologize to me, then I have no choice but to apologize as well."

"Eh?"

My sister lifted her head in shock, before lowering it down hastily again.

"Why?"

"There was a period of time when I felt uneasy as well. Are you actually waiting for me? Due to the rare letters being checked through thoroughly, I had absolutely no way of confirming Akiko's thoughts. Even though I had spent six years in preparation to get you back, I had no way of knowing how you felt. Is Akiko still waiting for me? Will I be troubling you if I am to get you back? Could Akiko have already started her life anew as someone from the Arisugawa family, thus having no need for me to reappear back into her life? Things like that."

"How could that be! How can there be such a thing!"

My sister lifted her head and shouted emotionally.

But she quickly said "Ah", and lowered her head again.

"Onii-chan. I had always believed Onii-chan will come to take me back some day. Even if I was treated rather strictly; despite me having to undergo lots of training; no matter how tough homework was - I managed to persevere because I thought to myself that Onii-chan will be watching me from somewhere afar. Because one day, I will have to let Onii-chan see the fruits of my hard work, and showed that I had followed Onii-chan's words."

"Mmm. Is that so?"

"Onii-chan. Did I follow our agreement? Did I, as Onii-chan had said, became a good girl...?"

I nodded my head without hesitation.

"You had indeed fulfilled my words. You had followed our agreement and became a good girl."

"Really.....?"

"That's how I really feel. From the bottom of my heart and without any reservations. Also, I thought that the current you is someone whom I am really proud of. Even more so than in the past. And also-"

"Also?"

"You had became much prettier, compared to the past."

po

It was as though I heard that.

"W-W-Wha"

She was so surprised that even her ears were dyed red. She maintained the position of her three fingers of each hand on the ground, and began muttering.

"What are you saying!?"

"Eh?"

I really did not know the reason for her to lose control.

"What do you mean by that? You had always requested me to tell you just that, right? 'Please praise my beauty' or 'please praise me for being cute', and so on."

"W-Well you are not wrong!"

"And in reality, I do feel that you have became much prettier. So much more prettier compared to six years ago..... Ah- could it be that Akiko does not feel the same?"

"No! Nothing of that sort! In anticipation for the day when I reunite with Onii-chan, I had never once slackened!"

"Well, isn't that it? Just accept my praise."

"E-Even though I am really happy..... but that surprise attack was too sly!"

What a difficult person to handle.

"Forget it, in any case that is how it is. It is about time you raised your head up, right?"

"I can't raise it up yet!"

"What is wrong? You still can't accept it? I had already listened to your thanks or your apologies, you know? Are you still not satisfied?"

"No. I am satisfied."

"Then what is the problem? Why can't you raise your head?"

"O-Obviously because I am embarrassed!"

My sister's voice was close to a lament.

"Even without a mirror, I knew that my face is bright red, and I am giving a smile that will make others feel uncomfortable - I cannot let anyone see me in such a state. I will rather die then to let Onii-chan see me as I am right now."

"That does not matter. We are the only family of each other. 'There should be nothing between siblings' - you had been saying things like that all these while, right? Are you still trying to hide from me despite saying those things?"

"T-That is a separate matter altoge-"

"I really wish to see it. The current expression of yours."

"..... Uuhhhhhh~~~~"

While looking downwards, she gave a cry of regret.

Timidly and slowly, my sister lifted her head.

"....."

Her eyebrows were that of the kanji '八', and she was biting her lips. As if she was a child waiting to be spanked.

Her face was as red as she said. Not just the tip of her ears, but even her neck was flushed red. 'Even if I was to suffocate, I will never allow my eyes to come into contact with yours' - as though she was saying that, her eyes wandered around.

- Ahhhh.

So it is like this.

Indeed, this is it.

"Hey, Akiko."

"Y-Yes....."

"You are extremely cute. To me, you are the cutest girl in this world."

ba-tan

Kyu

She seemed to have given out sounds similar to these onomatopoeia.

My sister had collapsed.

"Akiko?"

"....."

"Oi~. Akiko~. Oi~."

"....."

No response. She was just like a corpse.

"There is nothing I can do with you....."

Could it be that she had entered Nirvana due to her embarrassment?

Forget it.

It was clear after looking at her red skin - which made me wonder if she was trying to test the human limits - her current expressions now must be even more exaggerated than compared to

that previously. She herself must have wished to continue lying face down like this in order for me not see her face.

Also, I will have to repent as well.

I had teased her a little too much just now. That will not do.

"..... Well, it was rare for Akiko to show me that cute side of hers. It will be rude if I do nothing..... right?"

It was not directed at anyone. I was just mumbling to myself.

Thus, I had decided once again to take a good look at my sister, who was emitting steam with a "pushu" sound - as though like from a manga.

I thought to myself that I would probably be forgiven if it was only something like this.

[Onii-Ai v1] Chapter 8: 7th April (The fourteenth day of living together - The day of opening ceremony)

Well then.

Should I say 'finally', or should I say 'it is about time'?

I had been anticipating this day for a long time, but on the other hand, I do not really wish for the day to come. It had finally arrived.

St. Ririana Academy. Today brings about the opening ceremony.

"..... Uh- Mmm."

I was standing in front of a fallen mirror that lays at the entrance of the shabby building which was built seventy years ago.

I had been scrutinizing myself.

"I don't know why, but I just feel like checking this over and over again. Does this suit me?"

I twisted my neck, and rotated my body leftwards by half a circle.

And then, I rotated my body rightwards by a full circle.

After checking every single corner of my body, I gave a light sigh.

"This won't do. It just feels wrong somehow..... I have never worn such clothes before."

The male uniform of St. Ririana Academy is the nostalgic olden-styled students' uniform. Although the uniform has a vigorous feel due to the thick cloths that are used, it would depend on the person wearing it as well.

Which means that for a person whose height and weight are just average, it looks forced on me.

No, in fact, I could already confirm it.

This uniform totally does not suit me.

I had been worn by the uniform instead.

Ah- damn, what a failure.

If I had known that earlier, I should have worn it a few times prior to today. If only I had worn the uniform normally..... Well, isn't it the same for graduates who are looking for jobs? One must look like he 'has gotten used wearing suits', so that the interviewers can accept him more easily.

Urm- yeah. I am in trouble.

That is because St. Ririana is a famous royalty school.

It is a place of learning that has gathered lots of rich people.

Also, my sister is the secretary of the students' council as well. She is obviously a student of stature.

As her older brother, I can not allow others to see me in such an embarrassing state.

Well, I knew this ever since I was brought into the Takanomiya family..... But those people of the upper class do place a lot of emphasis on their reputation. If my actions had brought about any negative evaluation, then I will affect the reputation of my sister as well.

Even though the chances of me worsening her position are unlikely, I have to do my best to eliminate even the slightest possibilities.

"Oi, Akiko~"

As such, I summoned her over.

I wished to know if such incongruity is within allowable range. Please help me to judge on that.

"Akiko~? Oi. Come over here."

"....."

"Akiko~?"

I had shouted a few lines at my sister's room. But it looks like there was no response.

"Oi. Hurry up. There is not much time left. I know you are slightly rushing as well, but this will just take a while."

"....."

Still no response.

That was weird. Typically, she would have rushed to my side upon me calling her, even if she was slightly busy. Could she be really busy with her preparations as well?

..... Just when I was thinking of such pointless stuff with my head tilted.

"..... Onii-chan."

From the door came her voice. A voice that was as soft as the buzzing of a mosquito.

"Actually, I had been hiding something from Onii-chan for a while."

"Eh?"

Her words that came out of nowhere confused me.

"What is it that you had been hiding from me? Do you really have to tell me that now? We are a little tight on time."

"It will be revealed sooner or later anyway."

My sister said that. Her voice sounded like she had been forced into a corner without any other option but to give up.

"Even though I already knew this would be exposed sooner or later..... I still dragged it on until now. If you wish to laugh at Akiko for being useless, then please do."

"Well, I have no idea what you are talking about."

"Something important. Very, very important."

What could that be?

I suddenly felt uneasy.

It always turns out to be my sister making a mountain out of a molehill. But even so, I could not stay calm after hearing her saying such things in a serious tone.

"Oi oi. Don't scare me. Just as you have seen, I am very timid. The way you are acting is not good for my heart."

"I am really sorry. But I had put in a lot of determination before finally deciding to tell you this. Please forgive me."

"..... I understand."

She probably felt really nervous.

My sister appeared from her room, dressed in her uniform- just when I was thinking of that, she dodged back into her room again, like a prey that had seen its predator.

"Akiko?"

"..... Urm, Onii-chan?"

"Yes?"

"..... You won't laugh at me?"

"Eh? Laugh at you? Why?"

"Nothing. In any case, can you promise that you will not laugh at me?"

"Ahhh..... well of course."

What was that about? 'Don't laugh at me', what does it refer to?

What had she planned to come clean to me?

"You promised, alright.....?"

With a frightened voice, as though she was praying.

And she timidly reappeared again.

"..... ?"

Eh?

Huh?

Why was she feeling so insecure?

There was nothing strange, and I could find nothing to laugh at.

If I had to say it, it was just my sister wearing a pair of spectacles with her fringes combed upwards. That is all- but that's not it, right? Well, that was indeed the first time I am seeing her in glasses, but that shouldn't be it, right.....?

"I-I know that this attire doesn't suit me at all."

With her face flushed red, she turned her sight elsewhere.

It looked like she felt terrible. She was twisting her body about,

"If possible, I wished to keep you in the dark forever. However, everyone at school knows that I wear glasses, and I can no longer hide it no any longer."

"....."

Damn, so it really about that!

"Akiko."

"Uh... Huh?"

"Are you short-sighted?"

"Yes. My vision had worsened during this period of time....."

She gave a look of extreme sadness.

"Actually, the degrees of this pair of glasses are already on the low side, but if I use a thicker pair of glasses, it will look even weirder, and thus this is the limit."

"....."

"Urm, I am sorry. That promise of earlier must have been really unreasonable. Anyone would have felt like laughing after seeing such a strange sight..... I am sorry, Onii-chan. If you wish to laugh, please go ahead. It must be really painful for you to endure the laughter....."

"Ah. But,"

I corrected my sister, who was saying such things with a self-depreciating smile.

"It is not weird at all. I should say that it suits you rather well?"

"You are lying!"

She looked at me with tears in her eyes.

"Please, do not try to hide it by saying those words. I am actually wearing such an unnatural thing on my face, and yet you are insisting that it does not look weird..... How can that be possible?"

How rude.

Apologize to all the meganekko-lovers in this country, right now. [TLNote: めがねっ娘 (meganekko), girls wearing glasses]

"If you hate glasses that much, why don't you just wear contacts instead?"

"I can't possibly do something as scary as putting a foreign object into my eyes."

"Come to think of it, you had never wore glasses in front of me. I had to hand it to you for being able to live like that. It must have been tough, right?"

"In order not to let Onii-chan know, I had worked hard for a while. For example, I had been practicing on pretend to see things that I cannot see clearly in reality."

"That is indeed some rather pointless practice..... Putting that aside, take a look at my uniform. I felt like it was rather unsuitable for me. It's such a pain. What should I do?"

"? There is nothing of that sort? It suits you wonderfully."

"Really? But I don't feel so myself....."

"This is a really stupid question. Because, no matter what Onii-chan wears, it will definitely suit him."

"....."

Uhhh- mmm.

It looks like I should not find my sister to talk about things like these, since she has a huge brother complex. Also, we both are very different in our definition of beauty.

"Forget it, lets put that aside. I still feel that it's really cute, the look of you with those glasses."

"Don't say it anymore, Onii-chan. I have already given up on this. Even if it's Onii-chan whom I love deeply who praises me for being 'cute', I am still not able to be happy about it wholeheartedly..... I am sorry, since Onii-chan is consoling me out of your consideration of my feelings."

"No, that is my heartfelt truth."

"In any case, I will not wear glasses while being with Onii-chan. If so, will you forgive me for being ugly due to my myopia?"

"Isn't that dangerous? Your eyesight is poor, and yet you are not wearing glasses?"

"I know that."

"I am really worried. What would I do if you were to get into dangerous situations because of that?"

"Even so, I am really sorry..... Akiko will not change her decision."

"An incoming ball or an incoming car. It will be quite dangerous if you can't see those things, right?"

"Even if it is the Onii-chan whom I deeply love who is saying such things, this is the only thing that I cannot compromise on."

"Listen to me."

Since she was being stubborn and not listening to me, I would have to change my methods.

"If you are not wearing glasses, then wouldn't you not be able to see your so called 'Onii-chan whom you deeply love' clearly?"

"You've hit the place where it hurts the most!"

My sister gave a pitiful wail and collapsed, while crying "uuuuhhhhh".

"..... Yes, that is how it is. There are totally no solutions for that only point..... I do not wish Onii-chan to see me in my glasses, and yet I cannot see Onii-chan properly without them..... I had to silently endure this dilemma, and it will probably continue to torture me. It will be like this for the rest of my life."

"Urm, if that is the case, why don't you just wear your glasses?"

"No."

"You do wish to see my face clearly, right?"

"That is indeed the case. But upon further thinking, if I am to keep staring at Onii-chan, wouldn't I die from my heart beating too quickly?"

"You will..... yeah right."

"And also, there is a much simpler solution for this problem. Onii-chan will just have to be closer to my face. You just have to continuously stay close to me while we carry on with our everyday lives, regardless of whether we are sleeping or awake..... See, that will be solved, right?"

"If I stay close to you even for only a single day, my everyday life will be destroyed, alright?"

"If possible, I wish we can be at a distance where our lips are about to touch."

"Stop continuing on the topic as though I will stick close to your face and continue living as normal. In any case, I will not do such a thing."

"Please do not say such cold words! If you wish, we can just be separated by a piece of glass!"

"No, no way. This problem can be solved if you just wear your glasses, so wear them properly from now on. Do you understand?"

"Uuhhhhhh....."

"This is an order from your older brother. Clear?"

"Uuuuuuhhhhhhhhhhh~"

My sister stared at me with teary eyes. Finally, she gave a sigh of resignation.

"..... I understand. Since Onii-chan had put it like that, I have no choice but to listen. I will try to wear my glasses as much as possible..... But."

"But?"

"I will absolutely not wear my glasses when I am alone with Onii-chan."

"Why not?"

"Because I want to show Onii-chan my cutest side. As a woman, this is the least I could do for my Onii-chan whom I love the most. This is the only thing I will never yield."

"Urm."

As usual, she likes to say things that are rather shady.

"I understand, I shall agree on that. You will be wearing glasses unless you are alone with me.

OK?"

"Yes. If that's the case, it's fine. Onii-chan is fine with it, right?"

"Ahh..... I still can compromise on things if it's of this level. When I am alone with you, even if there is a ball flying towards you or an incoming car that is about to hit you, I will definitely protect you."

"Fuwa....."

My sister suddenly became wobbly.

"Y-Yet another love attack from you..... But I must hold on. If I always bleed from my nose and faint upon hearing such things, my pride as a teenage girl will be in danger. And also, it's no joke if I am to die of excessive blood loss."

"Why are you still there muttering to yourself? Hurry up, we should get going, there is really not much time left."

I had originally planned to attend the school's opening ceremony at a relaxed pace. The final result was not what I had envisioned. And the problem with me being worn by my uniform was still something that had not been settled yet.

But it does not matter.

The slight uneasiness left in me was totally gone after this mess.

And we had no time to dwell on such small and insignificant matters.

That is because I have to live like this everyday from now on.

That's right.

Just like I had stated right at the start.

This story,

it is a <story of the lives of a pair of brother and sister, who was somehow separated from each other for sometime and for some reasons was reunited again and began living together under one roof, living their lives normally without any major happenings - much like the gentle flow of water, with no bumps and impacts>.

And nothing more.

From today onward, I will have to live my life as ordinary as possible.

Sincerely, giving my all, and doing my best.

That is because I had wasted a lot of my energy in order to live such a life.

"Well then, lets cheer up and move on!"

I cheered myself on loudly, and opened the door with full of energy.

In order to sprint towards the shining and ordinary life, starting from today.

***

..... Well, even though I had reached the school in that spirited mood.

"So we meet again."

The front gates of St. Ririana academy.

Just when my sister and I had reached the front gate, she walked towards us, against the flow of the students. Like how salmons swam against the flow of rivers in groups to lay eggs at their place of birth.

She had started a conversation with us.

"Even though I had already anticipated it to a certain extent, our school's uniform is really not suitable on you, to the point where my jaws nearly dropped. Well, it is true that you are probably not used to the brand new uniform, but for the uniform to be that unsuitable for you, it can almost be considered a talent of yours. I wish that you will fully train and unleash this unique talent of yours in the future."

"Uhh..... After not seeing each other for a few days, is this the way you greet me!?"

I should have resolved this problem before we got out of the house! Even if it was just so that she cannot nitpick on me, I should have done that!

"Please do not be too concerned about it."

With the usual blank expression,

"Just like before, I just simply wish to waste some time with you. It is not unusual to the point where it requires people to point it out, so relax - well, that should be a good compromise from me."

"Ah, really? I do feel like the uniform is not suitable for me as well....."

"No problem. It suits you in about roughly the same way as the scene of the world's number one bodybuilder waving at the camera while wearing a miniskirt."

"..... In another words, it is not suitable on me to the point where it is something out of this world?"

You don't call that a compromise. You call that rubbing salt onto one's wounds.

..... Forget it, I'll set that aside.

It's Nasuhara Anastasia.

"Morning, Nasuraha."

"Just Anna will do."

"Ahh right. Morning, Anna."

"Hmmph. To refer to a girl as a hole. You are a really impressive man."

"..... It looks like you love this gag a lot huh?"

She was still the same. Oh well, I am used to it.

Also, despite her made me speechless, but I still felt a little happy.

Because to me, this academy is like a demonic away ground. Although we had only known each other for a short while, it's always good to see someone whom you know. Not only that, but she had greeted me first, so I can only feel happy.

..... Sigh, I am really timid.

Actually, I already had an extremely dependable companion in the form of my of my sister. But even so, I still felt uneasy. Then again, I was quite well taken care of, as a transfer student.

"Wha-Wha-Wha-Wha-Wha"

That was not from someone who was practicing do-re-mi. [TLNote: The previous line was actually "ど、ど、ど、ど、ど", which is read as "do" x5. Next line Akiko said is "どういうことですか兄ちゃん!?". It was just her stammering.]

With her mouth wide opened, her eyes reduced to two dots, and her body trembling, my sister looked at me and Nasuhara back and forth.

"What is the meaning of this, Onii-chan!?"

"Eh? What do you mean by that?"

"Why are you so close with 'that person'?"

Ah.

I see, she was talking about this.

"Why, do you know her - Nasuhara Anastasia?"

"No, totally not!"

"That is impossible, judging from your reaction just now."

"In any case!"

As she said that, my sister stepped between me and Nasuhara, and gave an intimidating "hmmph".

"Vice-president, please do not get close to my Onii-chan!"

Hmmmm?

Vice-president?

"You don't have to be that tense."

Nasuhara said plainly,

"Your brother and I became acquainted under circumstances that are totally unrelated to you. No matter what happens between me and him, they are not of your concern. That applies even if both of you are blood-related siblings. Don't you think so? You are of the same grade as me, but you are shorter, your breasts are smaller and your grades are poorer than mine. As such, Arisugawa Akiko, you can only be behind me in students' council as well, right?"

"Please stop trying to take an ingenious dig at me while saying all those things as though you are reading a manual or something! And the fact that all the things you had said are true makes me even more angry!"

"Well then can you please step aside?"

"No way! No matter how correct you are, I will never want you to get near to Onii-chan!"

"Oi oi Akiko."

This time, I interrupted.

"There seems to be a lot going on between the two of you, but calm down for a moment. The people around us are watching."

"Onii-chan can say such things only because he had no idea how evil this person is!"

But it looks like my sister had no intention of listening to me.

"And also, there is actually not much difference between that person and me in terms of our height or bust size! And our grades are just a difference between number one and number two! And yet she always brings this out!"

"Well, the fact about me being superior than you in everything is the truth."

Even though she was facing such accusations from my sister, it just fall deaf on Nasuhara's ears.

"Or should I say, that even though the difference is that small, I still managed to win you all the time. That just emphasized the fact that there is an unbridgeable gap between the both of us, no? Do you not think so, secretary of students' council - who is of one rank below the vice-president - Arisugawa Akiko?"

"The secretary is an important role as well! And also, didn't you always skip the meetings of the students' council!? Acting like that even though you are the vice-president!"

"Even if I did not attend the meetings, I still do my job properly as the vice-president. And also, in our school, the vice-president is tasked with the job of assisting and offering advice to the president. But you do know that the current president is a dictator that is capable beyond words, so there is no need for me to offer any advice. You should be well aware of that if you are a member of the students' council. If so, don't you think you are being silly by bringing out my attendance rate of the meetings at this point of time?"

..... Looks like their relationship is really bad.

But if so, then those things that happened previously could all be explained.

My sister and Nasuhara were both oversensitive to the smell on my body. This is the reason why.

They had probably detected each other's presence from the little amount of smell that had remained on my body. It was just that little, and yet it had created a huge reaction from them. Just how bad is the relationship between these two? And also, isn't their sense of smell a little too strong?

But with that, the confusion towards my body's smell can be cleared. For me, it was something worth celebrating.....

"Ahhhh enough! You're right!"

It looked like my sister had no intention of sharing my joy.

"Onii-chan! Onii-chan!"

"I am listening. You don't have to shout."

"You understand now, right!? That's the person she is! That is why I asked you not to get close to her!"

"I do remember you saying something like 'there is a person you should not get close to', but you did not specify who, right?"

"So even Onii-chan is saying things like 'ah you are right'!? Ah, this is all due to the negative influences from the vice-president! She is indeed the cause of all inflation, the poor market run and the appreciation of Yen!"

My sister started to say some really incredible stuff due to her anger. She stared at her golden-haired superior with eyes that looked like it could spew out fire at any moment.

"In any case, please do not get near my Onii-chan! That is because Onii-chan is the Onii-chan for me, and no one else!"

"I am sorry, but that will not do. Or I should say things are about to go in the direction against your wish."

With that, Nasuhara looked in my direction,

"Himenokouji Akito-kun."

The first time she called me by my name,

"I have a request, so can you please listen?"

"Eh? About what?"

And then, still with that blank expression of hers,

"Please allow me to be your girlfriend."

She lowered her head and bowed.

.....

.....

.....

"Eh?"

"Please allow me to be your girlfriend."

"Ugh, I heard that. You don't have to say the same things twice. Eh? But why? What is the situation now? Girlfriend, urm, it means that 'girlfriend', right? Eh?"

"I am sorry. It must have been quite sudden."

There was still no visible change in Nasuhara's expressions.

"I shall explain it clearer. It means that from now on, whenever you are with me, please spare a part of your brain to consider going out with me in the future like a pair of lovers would. You do not have to answer me now."

"Eh? No. That....."

Whoa.....

This was getting troublesome.

I could not follow up with what was happening. Both my mind and body.

"Instead of calling it a confession, you can think of it as a declaration from me. I am just stating my stand in hope that you will know about this. It is just that, so stop being so shocked."

"Ugh..... Urm, wait. Anna?"

"Hmmph. To call a girl as a hole. You are a really impressive man."

"Urm, stop harping on that Please."

"Oh. Then?"

"Urm, in regards that..... Why?"

"Why, as in, why did I confess?"

"Ahh. Mmm. Yes."

"Because I love you."

"....."

With just two lines, I could no longer carry on.

If you feel like laughing, please go ahead.

To be confessed this directly, purely and suddenly, while in the public, surrounded by many people. If there is someone who can calmly accept it and reply to her, please introduce him to me - I wish to befriend that person.

"Wait! Wait a minute!" [TLNote: This is in English]

My sister, who looked like she had ninety percent of her life energy taken away from her, finally interrupted.

"I can't understand what you said! Oh my God..... Oh my God! Please tell me why! Why do you do so..... such a strange, unbelievable, immoral, and..... Ahhhhhhhh!" [TLNote: This is in English]

"Calm down, Akiko. Return back to Japan."

"Korega otituite iraremasuka! Onii-chan in tikazuku dakedemo ikari-sintou nanoni! Sonoue ko, ko, ko, koku-haku nante! Eei, korewo misugoshiteha okemasen! Kyo kosoha anohito to kecchaku wo tukenakereba!" [TLNote: How can I calm down like this! I am already furious at the

fact that she is near Onii-chan! To think that she actually co-co-co-confessed! Ahhhh, I cannot let her off just like that! I definitely have to settle everything with her today!]

It looked like she was too emotional to know what language she should be speaking in.

"Ka ka ka. Great, great. This is really not bad!"

Just then, came a laughter which I had heard of before.

"The feeling that something huge is about to happen - it doesn't make one hate it. Isn't it fun to be entangled in love-related matters on the very first day of school. Hmmm?"

I took a look, and saw a female student who had split the crowd and was walking in our direction.

Red hair, eye-patch, Japanese sword.

A savage yet beautiful lady with the nickname 'Predator', just like a cheetah prancing through the fields - president of St. Ririana Academy's students' council, Nikaido Arashi.

"Yo. Good morning, my cute little subordinates."

"Good morning" - as usual, Nasuhara replied with the blank expression of hers.

"..... Good morning," and here at this side, my sister in red alert.

"Hmm. Today, both of you are prettier than before. Why? You two have finally decided to be my lovers? Hmm?"

"Pardon me, but I decline." my sister answered immediately.

"....." As for Nasuhara, she ignored it totally.

"Kaichou," my sister pressed on. "We are slightly busy here. Can you step aside for a while?"

"Oi oi, that is cold. Why are you treating me - who had confessed to you over ten times already - as ifI am someone who gets in the way?"

"It is not 'as if', but you really are a person who gets in the way. The president will make things messier than they already are, so please go somewhere else."

"I will listen to you if you are willing to be my lover."

"I humbly decline. I dislike loose people like the president, and also I have no interest in love between the same sex. Moreover, I am absolutely loyal to Onii-chan."

"Ka ka ka, so I am dumped by you again for today huh. Forget it, the harder it takes to get you, the more achievement I will feel when I do. And also-"

With that, Nikaido-senpai turned her sight towards me.

..... Uwa...

This person is absolutely bewitching.

She looks rather unrefined, just like a vagabond. Irregardless, she looked like one who'd give you the impression that she is rough. Being stared at by her eyes, it felt like I was being licked

by a wet tongue on the back.

If we are talking about cuteness, it has to be my sister.

If it is beauty, that will be Nasuhara.

But if we are talking about sex appeal, then this person will be number one - that was how it felt like.

"Himenokouji Akito."

"Ah. Yes?"

"I hereby give you my order."

As she said that, she opened up a piece of paper.

"Starting immediately, you are to be a special member of the students' council. That is all."

"..... What?"

"Sorry, but you are in no position to reject it. That is because in our school, the powers of he students' council's president are absolute."

"Urm, even if you say that....."

"Incidentally, your official title is 'Deputy Assistant of Secretary'."

"..... In the end, that cannot even be considered as an official member, right? Just what exactly do you want from me by creating such a worthless position in the students' council?"

"To be my lover."

"Pardon me, but I humbly decline."

"Ka ka ka, don't say that. It's nothing much, you can just pretend you're doing something by counting the number of holes in the ceiling-"

"Hang on a second, president!"

That was my sister interrupting.

"What is the meaning of this?"

"You heard everything, right? Your Onii-chan whom you loved will become my cute lover starting from today."

"I do not wish to listen to such horrible jokes! Really, why are you doing such things on your own!? You actually wanted Onii-chan, who don't even know much people in the school, to enter the students' council..... No matter how popular or capable president is, I can never allow such dictatorial behavior!"

"Don't put it to heart. It has always been like this."

"Please do not put it like it has nothing to do with anyone else! Also, why didn't you discuss this with me? This matter actually concerns my Onii-chan!"

"Calm down and think clearly for a moment. Your brother's position is the 'Deputy Assistant of Secretary', which means that as the secretary, you have became the superior of your brother. Do you know what that means?"

"Uuuuhhh.....?"

My sister's expressions softened a little.

"Onii-chan is my subordinate..... which means I can order Onii-chan around as I wish.....?"

"Not just that. With that, you can always be with your brother from now on. It took you guys a great deal to be back together again, but to be separated in school..... If it ends up like this, you will feel lonely as well, right?"

"Uuuuuuuhhhhhhhhhhhh....."

"And also, if your brother is to join the students' council, that will allow me to keep my lover by my side. That is how it is. I have totally killed three birds with one stone."

"Wait a second! I was so nearly convinced, but just that point-"

"Kaichou."

Just then.

Nasuhara, who had been silently watching all these, raised her hand,

"I object. Himenokouji Akito is a man whom I had set my sights on. Are you saying all these things despite knowing that?"

"Yeah. Of course I know that, fuku-Kaichou."

"Please give up then. If someone like you - who have so many lovers that you can't even hug them all with both arms of yours - feel like your harem is not well stocked, then please find someone else."

"That will not do. If I was to meekly give up the man whom I am interested in just because another girl said she was interested in him first, it will tarnish my reputation as a woman."

"And so it is. I understand, president. I'll treat you as an enemy of mine, Even though this is not my original intention, there are things that I can never give in as well."

"Ka ka ka, great, that's great. I like things like this the most, you know? To be involved in a love that makes one suffocate; to be distraught by the matters of the heart - these are the wishes of women. And since I was born as one, it will not do if I do not get myself involved in it. "

"Wait, hold on a second! Please stop for a moment!"

My sister wailed in an attempt to stop them.

She was just protesting the fact that they had totally ignored my opinions- of course, she did not cried out for that reason,

"Please do not go on by yourselves and saying such things! Ever since birth, Onii-chan has been exclusively my Onii-chan! He had been pre-ordered, no, purchased away! If both of you saying such things only now, it will not work-"

"You sayin'?"

"What are you talking about?"

The president and vice-president both said at the same time.

"You and him are siblings, right? Ever since the beginning, you are not to be included in all this."

"I know you treasure your brother a lot, but don't you think there is something wrong if you are to interrupt us now?"

"N-Nothing of that sort! The love between Onii-chan and I are not just of that level-"

"Can you guys hold on for a second?"

The voice stopping them was not mine.

Of course, it was not of Nasuhara or Nikaido-senpai. Neither was it from that incompetent sister of mine.

"If you people are talking about that, then please include me in as well."

"—!?"

The voice that I should not be hearing came from a person who should not be here.

The person who appeared from the rather noisy crowd was,

"Gin!?"

"Hi Akito. It has been a while since we met."

I couldn't be seeing wrongly.

That silver hair that does not looked like it belonged to a Japanese. Pale green eyes. A slim tiny body like that of a child.

My friend whom I respect, who should be in Kyoto - it was Sawatari Ginbe Haruomi herself alright.

"Wait, what are you doing here! And what's with that attire of yours!"

"Ahh. This?"

My friend lifted the bottom of her blouse,

"Isn't this a really great design. I like it a lot."

"No not that! I am asking why you are dressed in St. Ririana Academy's uniform!?"

"That really doesn't sound like a question that you would ask, Akito. A person who is in St. Ririana Academy and wearing the uniform of that school. Wouldn't there be only one answer?"

"..... So you transferred over?"

"I should have said that before, Akito."

Ginbe laughed lightly while winking.

"Just give up and accept my revenge, that is how it is. It can't be that you had forgotten about it, right?"

Ahh.

She did say that before.

Things like she will pay me back many folds, asking me to prepare myself for the real revenge, and telling me that she will be visiting me soon. However,

"Really..... what sort of 'prank-like revenge' is this? My heart nearly stopped beating for a moment, really. Please let me off."

"Mmm. It is for the best if you are really shocked. If not, it would have been a waste for all of my efforts."

"It is really a bad habit of yours for enjoying pranks like these."

"Well don't worry, The only target of my pranks is you."

"That is even worse, alright! To think you had actually said things like 'so you are not planning to come back here" and stuff, so they were all lies..... Ahhhhh, you! Enough of that!"

"W-Wait! Hold on a second!"

Just then, my sister interrupted frantically.

"Onii-chan, this person is the one you had told me about....."

"Ahh sorry, I'll introduce her now. Sawatari Ginbe Haruomi, a friend of mine. While at my home at Kyoto- at Takanomiya, our relationship had been really close. Just as you had heard, it looks like she will be a student of this academy as well starting from today, though I really have no idea what the heck is she thinking of..... This fella comes from a rather complicated family as well, so it should not have been easy for her to transfer-"

"No, even though I wish to know more about that! But compared to that!"

"Ah- right, right. Even though she has such a name, but she is of northern-Europe blood lineage. However, unlike her looks, she is a Japanese through and through, but that is due to her family as well-"

"No not that! Even though I am curious about it, but compared to that!"

"Compared to that?"

"Isn't she a girl!?"

"Eh?"

..... Ahhhh.

So that was it.

I totally did not notice it.

It was something that is natural to me, so I had forgotten to mention it.

Well even though her name and her way of speech are like that of a scholar from the Meiji era, Sawatari Ginbe Haruomi is a really pretty girl.

Indeed, both her looks and her personalities are a little too unique, but that is caused by her rather complicated family conditions-

"Well then,"

Even though I said that, they have nothing to do with the things in hand.

As usual, my friend tilted her body slightly and gave a slight smile, and looked to and fro at Nasuhara and Nikaido-senpai.

"Nice meeting you all for the first time, acquaintances of Akito. The relationship between me and Akito can be considered as rather close. I have no intention of nitpicking like a young lady, but I do not wish for others to vie for the rights of his ownership, at a place that I am not familiar with."

"Oi oi Ginbe."

She was rather blunt towards the people whom she was meeting for the very first time. There will be trouble if I do not help to mediate things.

"What's with you using that hostile tone of yours right from the start? Aren't you the same as me- no, less familiar about this academy than me? You should be more friendly, since we are fated to meet."

"You are right, but from my point of view, there are reasons for me not to yield. Similarly, there are things that I cannot forgive, and things that I cannot accept and swallow."

"..... Is that so. Mmm, so that's how it is."

After being rejected strongly by my friend, I can't help but be touched and embarrassed at the same time.

"Thank you Ginbe. It had been always like this, but nevertheless I have to thank you. You had been like this ever since the beginning. You had always been concerned about things related to me, and this time, you had even transferred over to this school due to you worrying about me. Even now, you have totally ignored my objections in order to help me. I am really really grateful. It is really my honor to have you as my friend."

"..... Oh boy."

But for some unknown reasons, Ginbe sighed and shook her head.

Then, with a stunned expression, she muttered,

"His treatment towards me is way too much. A girl that came all the way to eastern Japan by herself, and yet he still cannot understand the reason behind it. This perfectly proves the saying that 'there is no medication for a dense person'. But this is just like Akito's style....."

"Eh? What? I didn't catch that."

"Nothing. I am just talking to myself. In any case, I-"

"Ka ka ka! Great, great!"

That was Nikaido-senpai laughing heartily.

"Things have finally became interesting. Well well, it is totally developing in the direction I wanted it to be..... What a great first day of school!"

It looked like she was shivering her shoulders from delight, while taking a look around.

Nasuhara Anastasia.

Sawatari Ginbe Haruomi.

She looked at them in that sequence.

"Just like what that pervert had said, it can be considered as fate for three beautiful girls with similar stands to come together. In any case, it is not something that can be settled in merely a few days. Let us put aside all the long-winded talks for now and proceed to deepen the friendship between girls..... how's that? Hmm?"

"Yes."

Nasuhara nodded her head.

"Well, I don't think we can deepen our friendship by much, since we are enemies of one another. But I do agree that we all have nothing to gain by getting into a conflict here."

"I feel the same as well."

Ginbe continued,

"I am just a newcomer who knows nothing about the current situation. I had made necessary preparations, but this academy should have some unspoken rules. It will be really great if I know more about those things."

"Well then, it's decided."

Nikaido-senpai, who was smiling brighter and brighter, clapped her hands with a *pa*.

"We shall postpone this battle for the moment. Let us set aside everything and take a drink, that will be the fastest way of deepening our friendship."

"President. What about the opening ceremony?"

"Didn't I just say to set aside everything for the moment? Just skip that thing. Skip it."

"So we are skipping some routine activities to hold a drinking party..... I am surprised to see it coming from a famous royalty school."

"Ka ka ka. Well Ginbe, I did not say anything about alcohol, right? Also, in this academy, the most important thing is to be flexible. Those who only knows how to study, will not be able to survive here. When it is time for work, work properly. When it is time to play, play happily. One have to know how to balance between the two."

It looks like things were getting really messy.

"Alright, since it had been decided, then let us not waste any time. Lets quickly move to the students' council room-"

"Sto———p! Stop stop stop!"

Well, I guess she had the right to do that.

My sister, who was placed aside and totally ignored, let out a huge yell,

"Hold on a second! So you guys think you can ignore me since I had not said anything!? Why didn't you all ask about my opinions before deciding on such an important thing!? No matter how you look at it, that is very strange!"

"..... What you saying?"

"..... What are you talking about?"

"..... What are you talking about huh?"

Nikaido-senpai, Nasuhara and Ginbe.

Their voices came out in perfect synchronization.

"We had just said that, didn't we? That you are the sister of Himenokouji Akito."

"I had said right from the start, that you cannot be included into the mix. Do not interrupt us, or things will become even more complicated."

"You are Akito's sister. We will try to respect your opinions as much as possible, but you have to know the limits as well."

"N-Nothing of that sort!"

My sister bit onto them tightly without letting go.

"The love between me and Onii-chan is real! Taboo and whatever are meaningless in the face of true love! Being blood related is just an insignificant matter!"

"That is just atrocious," said Nikaido-senpai.

"It is that insignificant matter that poses the most problems," Nasuhara said.

"Use your common sense and think for a moment. You know, common sense," said Ginbe.

"Nothing of that sort! It's not like that!"

Bring in an extremely unfavorable position, my sister's cringed her face like a child. With a look that was close to crying,

"The link between me and Onii-chan are absolute! Ever since birth - except for the period of

time when we were separated due to some family problems - we had been together always! And the time we had spent together are not just for show! Onii-chan had saved me from the children who loved to bully me. He had helped me to eat the celery which I dislike eating. He slept together with me on nights where I couldn't sleep. And also, he had fulfilled his promise, by living together with me again! It is natural for Onii-chan to develop feelings for me that are way beyond that of siblings!"

"Well, if that is what you think,"

Nikaido-senpai shrugged,

"Why don't you ask your brother? That is much faster."

"A-Ask Onii-chan?"

Finally, as someone who was unable to interrupt all these talks, it was my turn to speak.

Nikaido-senpai, Nasuhara, Ginbe.

The three of them focused their attention onto me.

"Onii-chan.....?"

With both of her hands clasped in front of her chest, it was the same for my sister as well. She lifted her head and looked at me with eyes as though she was praying.

"Akiko."

I looked straight into my sister's eyes.

Word by word, I said slowly.

"You are a good girl."

"R-Really.....?"

"Of course it is real. You are honest and cheerful, and you listen to me. You do everything well without the need of me asking. If that is not a good girl, then I don't know what is."

"I, had I returned Onii-chan's expectations.....?"

"Of course. In fact, you have exceeded my expectations. And you are not just a good girl, but a cute child as well."

"Really!?"

"Of course it is. The thing about how you love to laugh is cute. The way you laughed with your fang showing is cute. Even though your eyebrows are slightly arched, but the gentle expression in your eyes are cute. Your neat fringes are cute too. The fast tempo of your steps when walking, that is cute. When you are sitting with a straight back, that look of yours is cute. Also, the fact that you throw a tantrum easily is cute, but being able to recover from it quickly is even cuter. I had always treasured you, who acted like that."

"Wa! Wa! Why is this happening? Whoa?"

"I love you, Akiko."

"M-Me too! Towards Onii-chan, I had always-"

"But ultimately, my love towards you is just as that of an elder brother towards his younger sister."

"Uwaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!?"

Her sparkling expression changed.

My sister expressed her despair with the expressions of the characters found in Glass no Kamen. [TLNote: Shoujo manga. Google if interested]

"Onii-chan you are an idiot! Meanie! I don't care anymore! Uwaaaaaaaaa!"

She ran away while crying.

..... Ugh.

Did I go slightly overboard?

Oh well, she can just treat that as a lesson.

If I was to reject my sister's wishful thinking in public, then that will probably reduce the negative influences it may have on our school's lives in the future.

Come to think of it, where are you running off to? The opening ceremony is about to start, you know?

"Well then, the talk shall end here."

Nikaido-senpai's expression showed that she totally did not care about that small incident.

"Let's move to another place. The students' council room generally has everything that we possibly need, since it is my stronghold. Alright, onlookers, the show's over. Disperse now or else you all will not be able to make it for the opening ceremony."

"I do not think that is something which should be said by someone who is about to skip the opening ceremony. Oh well, just this once, I am in the same boat as you."

"Oh, as expected of the vice-president, your brain moves really quick. I like that point about you the best. If you are to agree to be my lover, there will be no flaws."

"Urm. These developments are certainly unexpected..... is this the culture of this school as well? I had spent a lot of effort to transfer over, but it looks like they are not in vain."

"Ka ka ka. You adapt quick. Name's Ginbe? You are new here, yet you are still able to maintain such levels of calmness despite facing the wrath of the students' council members - that is a rather rare quality. How about this - the treasurer's position is still open, are you interested-"

Those three ladies looked as though they fit right at home in each others company.

They walked shoulder to shoulder, and while ignoring the onlookers and me, they left the place harmoniously.

***

I have to apologize for going against what I had announced publicly.

<A story of the lives of a pair of brother and sister, who was somehow separated from each other for sometime and for some reasons was reunited again and began living together under one roof, living their lives normally without any major happenings - much like the gentle flow of water, with no bumps and impacts>.

That was what I had said, but somehow, unknown to me, it became totally the opposite of that.

The students' council president, who acts just like her name suggests.

The vice-president, whom everyone agrees is hard to get along with.

The treasurer (-to-be?) whom I treat as my good friend.

The secretary, who is my rather incompetent sister.

And also, me, who had somehow became the errand-boy of the students' council.

I am really regretful to say this.

To wish to live an ordinary life and whatever - after gathering such a group of people, it is just much easier to win the lottery, or to rear a match-winning race-dog. And in a certain sense, conquering the whole world is an easier task as well.

For someone like me, whose looks and grades are ordinary, and has neither any motives nor secret abilities, this is a really serious problem.

The two-thirds of my high school life that I am left with, is about to develop rather messily - I absolutely detest it.

In order to live with my sister again, I had spent a lifetime of diligence into it. An unstable lifestyle is nothing but a pain to me.

But that is not to say that I have already given up.

Even though I am currently in a situation where the people around me are engaged in battles everyday, there is still enough energy in me to want to do something about the situation.

To live each ordinary day in peace - that is the only seemingly difficult wish that I want to fulfill. From today onward, I will do try to do my best to achieve it.

Everybody - even the Arisugawa and Takanomiya - firmly believes in the blood ties I have with my sister. However, the truth is not like that as written in the records.

Though we are fraternal twins, there are absolutely no blood relations between me and my younger sister - we are totally not related to each other.

The feelings of me giving up on my 'ordinary daily life' - I shall hide it in my heart for now. I'll just write up till here for today.

If fate allows it, we shall meet again

MF文庫 J

お兄ちゃんだけど愛さえあれば関係ないよねっ

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